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COLONIAL REPORTS

Barbados

1949



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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COLONIAL OFFICE

REPORT ON BARBADOS

FOR THE YEAR 1949

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The cover illustration shows a barge loaded with sacks of sugar
at Bridgetown

PART I

Review of 1949

A GENERAL ELECTION in December, 1948, had given the Barbados Progressive League, under Mr. Grantley Adams, a majority of two in a House of Assembly of 24 members. The election of one of the party as Speaker reduced the majority to one. Small though this majority was, it did result in the speeding up of business in the House, and generally speaking Government measures suffered little delay.

Among the first bills passed in the new session was one to provide for the keeping of Government accounts in West Indian dollars and cents instead of in pounds, shillings and pence as from 1st April, thus paving the way for the introduction of a unified currency for the Eastern Group of the British Caribbean. At the same time the form of the Annual Estimates was changed and a separate capital budget was prepared in accordance with recommendations made by the Economic Adviser to the Development and Welfare Organisation. Arising out of a report by Mr. G. H. Adams, C.B.E., formerly Financial Secretary, Nyasaland, on the remuneration and conditions of service of Government servants, legislation was passed early in the financial year revising the salaries and emoluments of the whole service which increased the Government's salary bill by over half a million dollars a year. The opportunity was taken to alter and to simplify the method of creating new offices in the civil establishment.

Among other measures passed was a bill to prolong the life of the House of Assembly from two years to three, and bills providing for the payment of members of the House of Assembly and members of Executive Committee. These last-mentioned bills had been rejected by the Legislative Council during the previous session, largely on the ground that the Government should first obtain a mandate from the electorate. Another bill of importance increased the value of the Barbados Scholarship and raised the number of scholarships from one to five, one of them being open only to girls. The bill also provided for the award of exhibitions tenable at the University College of the West Indies.

On 1st February it was announced that the King had approved the appointment of the Governor, Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Mauritius, and he and Lady Blood left the Island on 15th March. In his farewell broadcast, referring to the two years of his governorship, Sir Hilary said "Progress, I believe in the right direction, there has been in no small measure: but I am more concerned regarding three highly important matters in which I hoped to see decisions reached before I left. They are: the re-organisation of local government,

the oil mining industry, and the deep water harbour." Referring to the constitutional changes, he said "I believe that, with perhaps certain modifications, the 'Bushe Experiment' is probably the best way of running this country at its present stage of development." Sir Hilary Blood will long be remembered for the interest he took in the activities of the Island, the personal touch resulting from his visits to every type of institution and above all his keen following of sport.

The abundant rains in the latter part of 1948 produced an exceptionally good sugar crop of 152,731 tons, which was only a few thousand tons less than the Island's record. The weather during the last half of 1949 was variable, but the 1950 crop is expected to be around 140,000 tons.

The road accident rate throughout the Island compares favourably with other parts of the world. The narrow and congested streets of Bridgetown and the winding roads of the country prevent excessive speed and enforce a degree of caution that is often lacking on straight broad thoroughfares. In spite of this there is no complacency and the road safety campaign was carried a stage further in April by the erection of a number of "Stop—Major Road Ahead" signs at cross roads throughout the Island. This measure met with an immediate response from the motoring public and has proved to be extremely successful and surprisingly popular. During the Christmas shopping season mounted police with loud-speaking equipment were used for the first time to control the crowds in the congested shopping area.

The Island had a reminder that it was within the hurricane zone when late on the evening of 30th August a tropical disturbance was reported to be about 180 miles to the south-east and moving towards the Island. Warning flags were flown throughout the following day and the various sections of the Hurricane Relief Organisation stood by. The winds were strong but not of dangerous force and from local observations it was clear that the centre of the storm had passed over the Island shortly before noon, though reports until the late afternoon indicated a disturbance to the south-east. The warning was withdrawn when reports were received that the disturbance had passed the Island. That night, a rain squall, following in the wake of the disturbance, poured down with torrential violence and caused widespread damage from flooding. The worst damage was caused in Bridgetown, where there were eight fatalities in the low-lying area of the Constitution Swamp, which forms a natural catchment area. The flooding was even worse than it would normally have been because at the peak of the storm the flood water was held up by a high tide in the carenage. Accurate measurement of the rainfall was only possible in a few places as the majority of rain gauges with a capacity of 8–10 inches overflowed; it is thought that the variation was between 6 and 13 inches in various parts of the Island.

On 1st November the new Governor, Mr. A. W. L. Savage, C.M.G., arrived in the Island and was received by a huge crowd when he landed and took the usual oaths in the Legislative Council Chamber. In his address His Excellency stressed that there was no short cut to improved living standards, but that the faith and energetic perseverance that con-

ditioned our wartime efforts must be continued in the economic field in peace if our efforts were to succeed.

In September Trans-Canada Airlines offered to operate a regular service at least once a week from Montreal if the Government would undertake to provide adequate landing facilities. A survey of the existing runway at Seawell showed that it was neither strong enough nor long enough for regular use by heavy aircraft, and in December tenders were invited for the construction of a new runway. The inauguration of the Montreal-Bermuda-Barbados-Trinidad service on 2nd December placed Barbados for the first time in direct air communication with North America, but until the new runway is completed calls can only be made at Barbados on the south-bound trip.

In the course of the year the Island was visited by the training cruiser H.M.S. *Devonshire*, and by two frigates of the America-West Indies Squadron, H.M.S. *Whitesand Bay* and H.M.S. *Bigbury Bay*.

Partly because of its good hotel accommodation and amenities, and partly because it is the headquarters of the Development and Welfare Organisation in the West Indies, Barbados is a popular venue for conferences, and among those held there in 1949 were the third session of the Standing Closer Association Committee in June; a meeting of the Preparatory Committee on the proposed unified currency for the Eastern Caribbean and a Meteorological Conference under the auspices of the Caribbean Commission in August; and a conference of Governors of the British West Indian Colonies in November. This conference, which was under the chairmanship of the Minister of State, Lord Listowel, was the first of its kind to be held in the West Indies.

The Island was honoured by the appointment of Mr. Grantley Adams, Leader of the House of Assembly, as a member of the Committee of Experts on the application of the Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organisation. In November Mr. Adams was also elected one of the three vice-chairmen of the Free World Labour Conference, representing the non-self-governing territories.

Three reports on matters of vital importance to the future of the Island were published during the year:

Report on Local Government in Barbados, by Sir John Maude, K.C.B., K.B.E.

Report on Oil Development Policy in Barbados, by Mr. G. W. Lepper, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.G.S., F.Inst.Pet.

Report on the Proposed Construction of a Deep Water Wharf, by Sir Douglas Ritchie, M.C., Vice-Chairman, Port of London Authority.

The report on local government proposed the virtual abolition of the Vestry system for administrative purposes and the substitution of a municipal area of Bridgetown, a northern rural area consisting of the parishes of Sts. Lucy, Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Joseph and James, and a southern rural area consisting of parts of the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church, not included in the new Bridgetown area, and the parishes of Sts. George, Philip and John. Thus the existing 11 Vestries

will be replaced in secular matters by three new area councils. There has been considerable discussion on the report which has been accepted by the Government in principle, and legislation to give effect to the proposals is being prepared.

Arising out of the report on oil development a bill was introduced to vest petroleum rights in the Crown. The bill met with violent opposition in the Legislative Council, but after prolonged debates it was eventually passed by the Council with comparatively minor amendments. Under the bill surface owners are to receive 25 per cent of oil royalties.

No decision has yet been taken on the scheme for the construction of a deep-water harbour at an estimated cost of approximately £3,000,000.

Though Barbados obtains most of her foodstuffs from Canada and has a considerable import trade in other items with the dollar area, the full effects of revaluation had not been felt by the end of the year because most importers had bought well ahead. There was an increase in some ocean freight rates and passenger fares, but it was found possible to bear the increased cost of petrol and kerosene temporarily from an equalisation fund.

The cost of living index figure, on a basis of 100 on 30th September, 1939, was 236 at the close of 1948. This figure declined throughout the year until it reached its lowest point in October and November, at 224, but December showed a rise of 4 points to 228. Over the whole year the average was between 228 and 229 compared with 231 in 1948. The reason for this was that the cost of foodstuffs remained more or less constant and the prices of clothing tended to fall.

PART II

Chapter I : Population

THE total population of Barbados, according to the West Indian Census counted on 9th April, 1946, was 192,841, of which 85,845 were males and 106,996 were females. The previous count was made in 1931 when the population was given as 156,312, with 62,978 males and 93,334 females, which shows an increase of 36,529 during the fifteen years between the counts.

The population was distributed among Bridgetown and the parishes as follows :

Bridgetown	13,345
St. Michael (excluding Bridgetown)	63,091
Christ Church	24,964
St. George	14,414
St. Philip	14,877
St. John	10,106
St. James	11,300
St. Joseph	7,712
St. Thomas	8,500
St. Andrew	7,582
St. Peter	9,131
St. Lucy	7,819
	<hr/>
	192,841

The population has continued to increase since the count in April, 1946, and the figure on 31st December, 1949, is calculated to be 207,262, an increase of 14,421 over the census figures, an average of just over 4,000 a year, compared with an average annual increase over the years 1921-45 of 2,435.

This figure is calculated as follows :

Population calculated at 31st December, 1948	202,669
Natural increase—births (6,549) exceeding deaths (2,979) for the year 1949	3,570
Immigration (16,870) exceeding emigration (15,847) for the year 1949	1,023
	<hr/>
Total	207,262

The density of population is 1,250 persons to the square mile throughout the Island.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

The economy of the island depends almost entirely on the sugar industry and the chief occupation of the people is agricultural work in connection with the cultivation and reaping of sugar. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 25,000 persons (male and female) are engaged primarily in the cultivation side of the industry. The majority of these workers were employed on the sugar estates, but a number have small holdings of their own which they also cultivate. There were, in all, over 30,000 peasant holdings of less than 10 acres on more than a third of which sugar cane was planted.

The well-distributed rainfall of 1948 resulted in a fine crop in 1949 of approximately 153,000 tons of sugar or its equivalent in fancy molasses. Only once has the output been greater (in 1939). The reaping season extended from January to the middle of June, although most of the reaping was finished by the end of May. There were 25 sugar factories and 12 syrup plants in operation. Over 2,000 workers were employed in these factories and plants. Occupations ancillary to the sugar industry continue to employ large numbers of workers. These occupations include packaging, transportation and shipment.

The distribution of workers among the main occupations remained unchanged. The approximate employment figures were as follows :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Sugar Estates	12,000	10,000
Sugar Factories	2,000	200
Domestic and Other Personal Services .	2,500	11,500
Retail and Wholesale Trades	5,000	7,000
Construction	7,000	300
Transport and Communications	3,000	100
Manufacturing and Repairing Machinery and Vehicles	2,000	—

The estimated number of unskilled able-bodied men who are either unemployed or underemployed remains at 5,000. The number of women who cannot be fully employed is approximately the same.

This was the second year during which workers for employment in the United States of America were engaged by private employers. Only 205 additional workers were recruited (all for work in Wisconsin), and most of these returned home on the conclusion of their short-term contracts. The workers agreed to refund the cost of their transportation to the United States which was advanced by the Barbados Government. Those who completed their contracts were repatriated free of cost, the expenses being met partly by their last employer and partly by the

Barbados Government. At the end of the year there were 264 men still working in the United States under contracts.

The Netherlands Colonies of Aruba and Curaçao continued to employ a number of Barbadians in their oil refineries. Two hundred and six men were recruited for these two islands (104 to Aruba and 102 to Curaçao). These men were recruited by agents under licence. The Labour Department, through its employment agency, engaged and despatched 31 men for work in His Majesty's Naval Dockyard in Bermuda.

Of the 14 families who were in Surinam at the beginning of 1949, 9 returned during the year. The authorities in Surinam are still anxious to continue further immigration in the light of the experience gained from the experiment initiated in August, 1948.

WAGES

There was no increase in the price of sugar, but in view of the high production of 153,000 tons compared with 78,000 tons in 1948, the Barbados Workers' Union asked that the question of an increase in the rates of wages be referred to arbitration. The arbitrator recommended that the basic rates of wages should remain as they were in 1948, but that a bonus of 6 per cent on total wages of field and factory workers be paid in respect of the period January to June. This award was accepted by the sugar industry as a whole. The cane-cutting rate remained at 57½ cents per ton, and there was no change in the piece rates for cultivation work or in the time rates, which were 17½ cents and 12 cents respectively for men and women.

In the sugar and syrup factories the rates of wages continued to be based on the ton of sugar and the puncheon of molasses and varied with the size and efficiency of the factory. The wage rates for out of crop mechanics fixed by a negotiated agreement remained unchanged as from 1st July, 1948, the effective starting date for the one-year contract.

Wage rates for all categories of port labour remained substantially the same as in 1948, and at the end of 1949 the agreements made in respect of 1948 were still in force as far as they related to basic wage rates. There were a few minor adjustments in certain of these agreements, e.g. those relating to stevedores and steamer warehouse porters.

Consequent on the recommendations of the Civil Service Commissioner, the salaries and cost-of-living allowances of civil servants and other Government employees were consolidated. The revised salaries were paid as from 1st April, 1948.

COST OF LIVING

The table on the next page shows the change in the cost-of-living index from September, 1939, to the end of 1949.

It will be seen from the table that there has been a decrease in the index from 236 in December, 1948, to 228 in December, 1949, with

small fluctuations during the year. The lowest point 224 was reached in October and November. The prices of the basic foodstuffs such as salted beef, salted fish, salted pork, flour, sugar, rice, milk (most of which were subsidised), remained substantially the same as in 1948, and the food group index figure was more or less constant. The decrease in the index figure was caused mainly by a reduction in the cost of clothing.

(January–August, 1939 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	110	111	111
1940	114	112	113	118	122	121	122	122	122	123	122	123
1941	124	124	125	128	129	130	130	131	134	136	136	137
1942	137	140	142	145	149	152	153	156	161	164	158	158
1943	156	164	162	162	163	166	166	166	170	168	168	168
1944	168	169	168	175	175	176	182	186	189	185	186	185
1945	185	183	183	186	186	186	187	187	191	189	190	194
1946	196	196	196	197	200	200	214	212	215	215	220	222
1947	228	224	228	228	225	225	223	223	224	226	226	226
1948	226	227	228	228	231	231	232	233	235	236	235	236
1949	235	234	235	230	226	227	229	226	225	224	224	228

Housing continued to be a difficult problem for officials, both overseas and local. The renovation and conversion of certain military buildings into civilian flats contributed in a small measure to ease the problem which was still acute at the end of the year. As there is no rent control board in the Island, officers have found themselves faced with the alternative of paying increased rent or having to vacate the houses.

The effect of the devaluation of the pound sterling on the cost of living generally had not begun to be seriously felt when the year ended.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department continued to function with a small staff. Apart from the Labour Commissioner, who is head of the department, there is only one officer, the Labour Inspector, who is not in the general clerical service; the senior clerk and one of the other clerks, however, carry out certain duties ordinarily performed by labour officers. The branch of the Department which handles the savings of Barbadian workers in the United States was in operation throughout the year; and the six temporary cane-weighing inspectors were again employed to supervise the weighing of canes at sugar factories during the reaping season. This was the fifth successive season during which these inspectors functioned.

LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Labour Department continued to be the scene of Conciliation Board Meetings. As there was no increase in the price of sugar the agreements reached between the Barbados Workers' Union and the Shipping and Mercantile Association as far as they related to wage rates

in the port remained substantially unchanged. During the year a Joint Port Committee with separate Divisional Port Committees for stevedores, lightermen, warehouse porters, etc., were set up. These committees provide machinery for discussion and settlement of difficulties which arise between employers and workers in respect of wages and working conditions. Each committee elects its own chairman, and the secretary is a member of the staff of the Labour Department.

The Congress Trade Union and the Overseer Association were inactive and their registrations were cancelled. No new unions were registered during the year. Of the workers unions registered, the Barbados Workers' Union was by far the most active. The Shipping and Mercantile Association of Barbados, an employers' organisation, was also very active. The Bus Owners Association did not take part in any Conciliation Board Meetings, though it was active behind the scenes. The Sugar Producers' Federation took part in discussions with the Barbados Workers' Union regarding revision of wages in the sugar industry.

LEGISLATION

At the end of the year amending bills relating to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943, and the Trade Union Act, 1939, were receiving the attention of the Legislature. The main objects of the proposed Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act are the provision of increased benefits to injured workmen and the extension of the salary limit within which a non-manual worker may be considered for compensation. The purpose of the Trade Union Amendment Bill is to provide for "contracting out" of the political levy instead of "contracting in" and to authorise peaceful picketing.

The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) (Amendment) Act, 1949, authorised, *inter alia*, the investment of accumulations in the Labour Welfare Fund set up under the Principal Act of 1947. The Civil Establishment Act, 1949, simplified the procedure whereby posts and corresponding emoluments may be established or changed from time to time. The Cane Fires (Prevention) Act, 1949, provides penalties for wanton or careless acts causing cane fires with consequent economic loss to the industry. At the close of the year, the Factories Act, 1947, had not yet come into operation by proclamation.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The revenue of the Colony during the financial year 1949-50 amounted to \$9,553,594, an increase of \$239,352 over the figures of \$9,314,242 for the year 1948-49.

The comparative table of revenue figures for the two years is as follows :

<i>Head</i>	<i>Revenue</i> 1948-49	<i>Revenue</i> 1949-50	<i>Difference</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs and Excise	4,450,667	4,743,746	+ 293,079
Taxation	3,272,134	3,071,225	- 200,909
Licences	136,448	73,438	- 63,010
Fines	19,513	11,856	- 7,657
Rents and Royalties	19,515	37,675	+ 18,160
Interest and Redemption . .	79,296	83,723	+ 4,427
Net Revenue from Govern- ment Commercial under- takings	58,682	81,549	+ 22,867
Revenue from Government Departments and Services.	859,345	940,840	+ 81,495
Special Receipts	86,911	509,542	+ 422,631

Expenditure for 1949-50 amounted to \$10,290,424 compared with \$9,847,803 in 1948-49, an increase of \$442,621.

The comparative table of expenditure figures for the two years is as follows :

<i>Head</i>	<i>Expenditure</i> 1948-49	<i>Expenditure</i> 1949-50	<i>Difference</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Governor	23,928	34,336	+ 10,408
Colonial Secretary	42,811	55,435	+ 12,624
Colonial Treasurer	15,667	21,268	+ 5,601
Auditor General	19,358	26,931	+ 7,573
Harbour and Shipping Master	72,457	68,731	- 3,726
Customs	150,897	191,026	+ 40,129
Powder Magazine	512	615	+ 103
Post Office	283,657	—	- 283,657
Public Market	20,799	29,280	+ 8,481
Fire Brigade	27,579	42,631	+ 15,052
Lighthouses	10,653	11,894	+ 1,241
Registration Office	27,680	28,371	+ 691
Legislature	16,401	74,692	+ 58,291
Legal Departments	119,333	155,881	+ 36,548
Police	607,425	691,264	+ 83,839
Prisons	67,949	92,703	+ 24,754
Government Industrial Schools	68,345	40,104	- 28,241
Commissioners of Currency .	25,906	9,781	- 16,125
Ecclesiastical	70,200	95,745	+ 25,545
Education	1,159,730	1,543,193	+ 383,463
Science and Agriculture . .	186,845	231,439	+ 44,594

<i>Head</i>	<i>Expenditure</i> 1948-49	<i>Expenditure</i> 1949-50	<i>Difference</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Public Library . . .	21,122	27,633	+ 6,511
Medical Departments . . .	806,401	957,871	+ 151,470
Barbados Regiment . . .	20,111	46,993	+ 26,882
Public Works . . .	125,511	190,341	+ 64,830
Public Works Extraordinary . . .	203	—	— 203
Pensions . . .	318,942	438,041	+ 119,099
Charges of Debt . . .	158,140	158,140	—
Subsidies and Grants . . .	199,015	230,492	+ 31,477
Miscellaneous Services . . .	568,704	213,115	— 355,589
Expenditure under Resolution . . .	2,719,377	—	— 2,719,377
Income Tax and Death Duties . . .	187,485	246,445	+ 58,960
Labour Department . . .	12,878	117,535	+ 104,657
Highways and Transport . . .	739,853	733,649	— 6,204
Airport . . .	16,784	33,869	+ 17,085
Government Electric Inspector . . .	15,077	18,365	+ 3,288
Housing Board . . .	12,483	8,257	— 4,226
Peasants Loan Bank . . .	5,766	16,872	+ 11,106
Old Age Pensions . . .	265,583	466,434	+ 200,851
Seawell Plantation . . .	12,198	—	— 12,198
Waterworks Department . . .	608,593	637,691	+ 29,098
Social Welfare . . .	1,158	3,437	+ 2,279
Architect and Planning . . .	14,287	17,272	+ 2,985
Subsidies and Controls . . .	—	1,148,084	+ 1,148,084
Contribution to Part II . . .	—	250,000	+ 250,000
Arrears of Salaries . . .	—	884,566	+ 884,566

The comparative figures of revenue and expenditure for 1948-49 and 1949-50 with the 1938-39 and 1939-40 are as follows :

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	\$	\$
1938-39 . . .	2,535,734	2,622,115
1939-40 . . .	2,685,523	2,688,182
<hr/>		
1948-49 . . .	9,314,242	9,847,803
1949-50 . . .	9,553,594	10,290,424

NOTE: Figures taken from Colonial Treasurer's abstract. The 1949-50 figures have not been audited.

The large expansion in revenue and expenditure compared with pre-war years is due to the fall in the value of money, but also reflects a real improvement in the Colony's financial position and increased services.

PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt at 31st December, 1949, was \$2,905,728, the sinking fund on that date being \$1,202,076, compared with \$2,905,728 and \$1,109,606 respectively in 1948.

The position in loans is set out below :

<i>Loan and Amount</i>	<i>Amount out- standing</i>	<i>Sinking Fund at 31st Decem- ber, 1949, at Cost</i>	<i>Date redeemable</i>	<i>Rate of interest</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Public Loan Act, 1914 and the Reimburse- ment Act, 1914— \$1,195,200 . . .	177,600	139,980	148,800—1961 28,800—1963	\$52,800 at 4% \$28,800 at 4½% \$96,000 at 5%
General Local Loan Act, 1933, and Public Loans (Redemption) Act, 1933—\$676,416	676,416	383,893	1964	3½% per annum
Waterworks Loan Act, 1935—\$746,400 . .	746,400	330,253	1961	3% „ „
Education Loan Act, 1935—\$397,872 . .	397,872	104,887	1966	3½% „ „
Waterworks Loan Act, 1941—\$169,920 . .	169,920	43,215	1966	3½% „ „
Local Loan Act, 1941— \$326,400 . . .	326,400	83,006	1966	\$321,600 at 3½% \$4,800 at 3%
Public Loans (Redemp- tion) Act, 1942— \$411,120 . . .	411,120	116,842	1978	3½% per annum
		<u>\$2,905,728</u>		<u>\$1,202,076</u>

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December, 1949, is as follows :

<i>Liabilities</i>	\$
Special Funds	1,762,018
Unexpended Balance of loans	129,899
Miscellaneous Funds not applicable to General Revenue but included in the Treasury cash	1,681,844
Unpaid vouchers	103,710
Balance at 31st December, 1949	5,358,365
TOTAL	<u>\$9,035,836</u>

<i>Assets</i>	\$
Cash in Treasury	161,467
Cash in Banks	1,195,121
Due by Crown Agents	3,696,492
Advances	835,000
Due by War Office	10,412
Due by Ministry of Pensions	20,825
Sundry Accounts, Government Savings Bank	60,392
Other accounts receivable	111,853
Advances subsequently to be refunded from Loan Funds	226,834
Barbados Cricket Association (Inc.)	24,000
Investments (market value at 31st December, 1949)	1,696,403
Advance to Barbados Savings Bank	192,000
Advances to public officers for purchase of motor vehicles	54,708
Advances—Seawell and Dodds Plantations	14,951
Advances for capital expenditure to be refunded by Loan Funds	642,838
Advances to be refunded by Development and Welfare Organisation	92,540
TOTAL	\$9,035,836

MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE

Customs Tariff

Specific rates of duty are imposed whenever practicable though, in view of the Island's dependence upon imported food, the duty on food-stuffs is low, especially on those commodities consumed in large quantities.

The tariff rates were greatly affected by the Canada-West Indies Agreement of 1925 which allowed the entry of produce and manufactures from Canada at rates below those on foreign items. Goods manufactured in any part of the British Commonwealth were also included in this preference. The preference was reciprocal and exports from the island have been granted lower rates in Commonwealth markets.

Ad valorem duties range from 1 per cent preferential to 32 per cent general, but on most articles the rates are 10 per cent preferential and 20 per cent general. All rates, both specific and *ad valorem*, are subject to a surtax of 20 per cent except those on articles named in the Trade Agreement of 1938 between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. *Ad valorem* duty is assessed on the factory cost of the item.

Exemption from the payment of customs' duties is allowed on machinery and apparatus imported for use in the manufacture of sugar, rum, cotton, tobacco, etc., and in 1949 the exemption was extended to machinery and apparatus imported for the purpose of irrigating agricultural lands. During 1947 an Act was passed enabling the importation free of duty for a period of three years of articles manufactured from Sea Island cotton grown in the British West Indies. Exemption from duty is also allowed

to fresh fruit, firewood, charcoal, coconuts, lemon and lime juice. These items are imported from neighbouring islands, arriving mainly by schooner.

The baggage and personal and household effects of consuls and consular officers and of public officers in the service of the Crown transferred from any part of the Commonwealth are admitted duty free.

Excise

Rum is the only article on which an excise duty is levied and this is at the rate of \$2.54 per proof wine gallon. In addition there is a distiller's licence of 4 cents per gallon on all rum distilled.

Originally rum was made in Barbados by means of pot-stills, usually producing rum at the strength of 40 per cent overproof. These small stills were established all over the island, but they have now been mainly replaced by patented and modern stills owned by four companies. These factories produce rum at strengths up to 68 per cent overproof.

Stamp Duties

Stamp duties are imposed under the Stamp Act, 1916, and duty is charged on specified instruments set out in a schedule to the Act. The Registrar is appointed adjudicator to decide the amount of any duty to be charged, with an appeal lying to the Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In certain cases unstamped or insufficiently stamped instruments may be stamped after execution on payment of the full duty and a penalty of \$24. The penalty may be remitted by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Stamp duty (12 cents) is required on any agreement or memorandum of agreement above a value of \$24 except for an agreement of wages or the purchase of goods, wares and merchandise. The rate of stamp duty for appraisements or valuation of property varies from 6 cents to \$4.80 depending on the value of the property. The private banks are permitted to issue bank notes on the payment of a licence of \$360. The stamp duty on cheques, receipts of \$9.60 or more, and bills of exchange payable on demand is 2 cents.

Other more important stamp duties are :

	\$ c
Bond for payment of money not exceeding \$240 . . . . .	.60
„ over \$240 and not exceeding \$480	1.20
„ for each additional \$480 or part . . . . .	.60
Bond of indemnity	2.40
Transfer of real or personal property depending on value . . . . .	.24
to . . . . .	.60
Deeds not otherwise described, depending on value	1.20
to	2.40
Lease at \$48-\$96 depending on value . . . . .	.48
rising to \$720-\$960	4.80
and for each additional \$240 or part	1.20
Marriage licence . . . . .	.48

\$ c.

Mortgage, bond, debenture, covenant, bill of sale, judgment obtained or confessed . . . . .	.72
Affidavits and other notarial acts . . . . .	.24
Life insurance policy . . . . .	.24
Power of attorney . . . . .	.60
Appointment or discharge of a trustee	2.40

Occupancy Tax

The occupancy tax, a parochial tax, was abolished during the year.

Income Tax

The rates of income tax for 1949 are set out in the table below :

On every complete pound of taxable income from								£1 to £100 at 6d.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	101 ,, 200 ,, 1s.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	201 ,, 400 ,, 2s.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	401 ,, 600 ,, 3s.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	601 ,, 800 ,, 4s. 6d.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	801 ,, 1,000 ,, 5s. 6d.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,001 ,, 1,750 ,, 7s. 6d.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,751 ,, 2,500 ,, 9s. 6d.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2,501 ,, 5,000 ,, 12s.
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	over 5,000 . . ,, 15s.

Income tax is not paid by residents on incomes below \$720 per annum in the case of single individuals and \$1,200 in the case of married persons. Deductions are allowed in respect of children under the age of 16 years at the rate of \$240 and over 16 years in respect of children receiving full-time instruction at any university, college or school. A maximum of \$240 is allowed in respect of any other dependant not exceeding two. Deductions are permitted for life insurances not exceeding one-sixth of the total income or 7 per cent of the actual capital sum assured or \$960, whichever is less.

During 1948 an Act was passed by the Legislature designed to give relief from double taxation.

The income tax on companies is fixed at a flat rate of \$1.80 on every pound of assessable income. The rate for life assurance companies is the average of that paid by an individual with a taxable income of \$4,800.

Returns of income are based on the income for the year preceding the year of assessment.

Estate Duty

Death duty is payable under the Estate and Succession Duties Act, 1941, as amended by the Estate and Succession Duties Act, 1949 (No. 22), and the scale is set out in the table below :

Where the principal value of the estate exceeds				<i>Estate duty shall be payable at the rate per centum of</i>	
	\$4,800 and does not exceed	\$14,400		\$1	
"	14,400 " " " "	36,000		2	
"	36,000 " " " "	60,000		3	

**

Where the principal value of the estate						<i>Estate duty shall be payable at the rate per centum of</i>
exceeds	\$60,000	and does not exceed	\$72,000			\$4
"	72,000	"	"	"	96,000	5
"	96,000	"	"	"	120,000	6
"	120,000	"	"	"	144,000	7
"	144,000	"	"	"	168,000	8
"	168,000	"	"	"	192,000	9
"	192,000	"	"	"	216,000	10
"	216,000	"	"	"	240,000	11
"	240,000	"	"	"	288,000	12
"	288,000	"	"	"	336,000	13
"	336,000	"	"	"	360,000	14
"	360,000	"	"	"	384,000	15
"	384,000	"	"	"	432,000	16
"	432,000	"	"	"	480,000	17
"	480,000	"	"	"	600,000	18
"	600,000	"	"	"	720,000	19
"	720,000	"	"	"	840,000	20
"	840,000	"	"	"	960,000	21
"	960,000	"	"	"	1,080,000	22
"	1,080,000	"	"	"	1,200,000	23
"	1,200,000	"	"	"	1,320,000	24
"	1,320,000	"	"	"	1,440,000	25
"	1,440,000	"	"	"	1,560,000	26
"	1,560,000	"	"	"	1,680,000	27
"	1,680,000	"	"	"	1,800,000	28
"	1,800,000	"	"	"	1,920,000	29
"	1,920,000	"	"	"		30

Relief in the case of quick successions to land or business is allowed at the following rates :

Where the second death occurs within one year of the first death										75%
"	"	"	"	"	"	two	years	"	"	60%
"	"	"	"	"	"	three	"	"	"	45%
"	"	"	"	"	"	four	"	"	"	30%
"	"	"	"	"	"	five	"	"	"	15%

Other Taxation

The other principal heads of taxation are the package tax, tax on motor spirit and diesel fuel used in road vehicles, and the police tax.

The yield from these taxes in 1948-49 compared with 1947-48 was as follows :

<i>Tax</i>	1947-48	1948-49	<i>Difference</i>
Package tax . . .	\$176,504	\$169,493	— 7,011
Tax on motor spirit. . .	\$530,814	\$522,957	— 7,857
Police tax . . .	\$17,853	\$20,287	+ 2,434

The package tax is levied on the authority of the Package Tax Act, 1941, by which a levy of 12 cents is made for every parcel of goods, wares and merchandise imported into the island or taken out of bond for consumption in the island. There are certain exemptions. Goods and merchandise arriving in bulk are also subject to package tax in accordance with a schedule which sets out the amount of the article that is deemed to be a package, for example, every 5 cwt. of machinery is considered one package and every 500 superficial feet of one inch thickness or less of timber. This tax is collected by the Customs in the usual way, or if the package arrives by post, by the Post Office.

The tax on motor spirit is at the rate of 2 cents per gallon and is collected from the importer who recovers it from the consumer by including 2 cents in the purchase price of each gallon.

The authority for the police tax is contained in the Police Act, 1891. It is in effect a rate levied on landowners. The rate of tax is 16 cents per acre and 4 cents in the pound of the annual rent of houses, but is not levied on both rent and land. The tax is collected by Parochial Treasurers but paid into the Public Treasury.

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

No important change or development in currency took place during the year. A West Indian Currency Conference, under the chairmanship of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, was held in Barbados in May, 1946, and recommended the establishment of a Regional Group of the West Indies. (The final details were settled in 1950.)

Government currency notes of the denominations of \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00, \$20.00 and \$100.00 are in circulation and are legal tender in British Guiana and Trinidad, as are the notes of those Colonies in Barbados. The private banks also issue \$5.00, \$20.00 and \$100.00 notes, although the issue of these notes has been restricted.

Government accounts were kept in sterling, but from 1st April, 1949, they are being kept in dollars and cents. British coin is legal tender and the chief medium of circulation. The British West Indies dollar is fixed at 4s. 2d., that is \$4.80 to £1 sterling.

The total issue of Government currency notes at 31st December, 1949, amounted to \$2,158,040 in the following denominations and amounts :

		\$		\$
629,263	notes at	1.00 . . .		629,263
30,291	„ „	2.00 . . .		60,582
217,663	„ „	5.00 . . .		1,088,315
9,599	„ „	20.00 . . .		191,980
1,879	„ „	100.00 . . .		187,900
				<hr/>
				2,158,040
				<hr/>

Private Banks

There are three overseas private banks operating in the Colony—Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The paid-up capital of each is respectively £4,975,500, \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000, and the head offices are in London, Montreal and Toronto.

Government Savings Bank

In addition to the private banks there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, at the end of June, 1949, there were 38,607 depositors, 1,724 more than in the previous year; the total sum to their credit was \$9,913,935, a decrease of \$210,404 compared with the previous year. There has been a steady increase in the use of the bank in recent years; since 1939 the number of depositors has more than doubled, the total sum to their credit has risen from \$4,506,729 to \$9,913,935, and the value of invested funds from \$5,144,382 to \$10,783,924. The rate of interest paid on deposits is 3 per cent, and since April, 1933, there has been a limit of \$1,440 on new deposits.

On 21st February a travelling bank was inaugurated consisting of a motor van fitted out for use in the outlying parishes. It has proved very popular.

Peasants' Loan Bank

The Peasants' Loan Bank was established in 1937 with a capital of \$480,000 to be advanced from the Public Treasury as the bank from time to time might require. The objects of the bank are to make loans for various agricultural purposes such as irrigation and the purchase of live-stock and manures, to enable the peasant proprietors to bring back into cultivation holdings abandoned through lack of capital. A peasant proprietor is defined as one who owns 10 acres or less. The bank is constituted a body corporate. It is controlled by a board of directors consisting of five members appointed as follows: the Director of Agriculture appointed by the Governor, one member appointed sessionally by the Legislative Council, two members appointed sessionally by the House of Assembly and one member appointed by the Agricultural Society of the Island. The accounts of the bank are audited by the Auditor General, and a copy of his report is forwarded to the Governor and published in the *Official Gazette*. During 1949 loans amounting to \$24,545 were advanced to 430 persons, compared with loans of \$25,809 to 435 persons during 1948.

The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank

The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank was established in 1907 and founded on a grant of \$384,000 made by the Imperial Treasury in order to assist the sugar industry of the Colony. The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, 1907, was replaced by the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act of 1943 in order that the usefulness of the money available might be extended to make loans for the carrying on of the management

of sugar factories in the same way as the previous Act authorised loans for sugar plantations and sugar cultivation.

The net profit of the bank for the financial year 1948-49* amounted to \$15,743, compared with \$13,968 in the previous year. The capital of the bank at the end of June, 1949, was \$1,374,883.

The Barbados Co-operative Bank Limited

The Barbados Co-operative Bank Limited is a privately owned bank incorporated in 1938, with a registered capital of \$240,000. During the financial year ending on 28th February, 1949, there were 17,694 depositors in the savings branch, and the balance to the credit of depositors was \$353,084. The bank has a scheme of loans to enable persons to purchase their homes and during the year \$652,341 was advanced.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

IMPORTS

Imports for 1949 were \$33,948,619 compared with \$30,461,904 in 1948; the increase was chiefly due to the increased importation of goods mainly from the United Kingdom. The principal increases were in respect of lumber, boots and shoes, cotton piece-goods, machinery.

The values and quantities of the main items imported in 1948 and 1949 are set out below :

Item	Unit	1948		1949	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Beer, ale, etc.	gallons	186,379	342,331	209,857	351,552
Animal foods	lb.	19,130,547	960,634	18,529,213	803,691
Rice	"	14,792,018	852,019	17,684,833	1,025,721
Flour	"	24,674,636	2,175,398	22,506,092	1,377,924
Pork, salted	"	3,361,867	645,480	3,551,534	710,307
Milk	"	1,685,010	404,405	2,399,168	577,469
Lumber	ft.	5,610,489	685,877	9,990,992	1,333,448
Cotton piece-goods	sq. yd.	2,171,216	1,308,648	3,130,491	1,577,208
Art. silk piece-goods	" "	913,360	758,894	1,185,360	283,058
Hardware	"	—	663,173	—	651,277
Machinery	"	—	1,404,053	—	2,023,130
Motor cars and trucks	no.	588	1,023,864	512	868,294
Boots and shoes	pairs	164,456	471,528	235,409	563,521
Iron and steel manufactures	"	—	732,326	—	882,979

An analysis of the sources of the imports showed increases in the values from the sterling area, and decreases from the dollar area.

The value of goods from the United Kingdom rose from \$11,950,133 in 1948 to \$13,836,929 in 1949, an increase of \$1,886,796. This increase was due partly to the deflection of trade from the dollar to the sterling areas and to increased prices.

Imports from Australia amounted to \$882,555, an increase over the 1948 figure of \$694,330. The main items were butter and meat of all kinds.

* The year ends on 30th June.

The value of imports from Canada showed a decrease of \$1,306,959, the figures were \$8,018,899 in 1948 and \$6,711,940 in 1949. The main import from Canada, flour, showed a decrease of \$778,003.

Imports from the United States of America showed an increase of \$524,443, the figures were \$3,716,112 in 1948 and \$4,240,555 in 1949. This was due to increased rates of exchange.

EXPORTS

The total value of exports, excluding the transit trade, was \$22,504,975, which was an increase of \$7,873,783 on the 1948 figure of \$14,631,192. The increase was due chiefly to a larger sugar crop.

The following are comparative figures of the quantities and values of the main items of export :

Item	Unit	1948		1949	
		Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
Sugar . . .	tons	49,652	5,770,656	126,609	15,714,738
Molasses* . .	gallons	6,560,630	5,050,416	6,143,926	3,275,316
Rum . . .	„	830,948	1,794,845	642,550	1,208,328
Soap . . .	lb.	598,430	142,426	238,511	36,967
Margarine . .	„	342,412	143,269	326,868	114,404
Edible oil . .	gallons	49,365	79,968	40,063	62,122
Cotton lint . .	lb.	12,084	10,152	58,274	58,274

The main increases were : sugar to the United Kingdom \$7,314,079 and to Canada \$3,060,810 ; molasses to the United Kingdom \$194,584 and to the U.S.A. \$116,786 ; rum to Canada \$124,447.

There were decreases in the case of molasses to Canada amounting to \$1,827,827 and to Newfoundland \$251,557 ; rum to the United Kingdom \$561,129 and to other countries \$149,835.

GENERAL

The prosperity of the island centres on the sugar crop and the prices that can be obtained for sugar and other products arising from the industry. There was an abundant rainfall during 1948 which accounted for the large crop and the increased tonnage of sugar exported.

The large importation of foodstuffs and lumber is essential in an island whose economy is based on sugar and which lacks the space for growing adequate food crops. Although ground provisions are grown, it is not possible for climatic reasons to produce the items which constitute the staple diet of the people—flour, rice and salted pork. The island has no natural resources of timber so that lumber has to be imported for building. Machinery is necessary for the rehabilitation of the sugar industry.

The visible adverse balance of trade, \$33,948,619 imports against \$22,504,975 exports, is \$11,443,644. Such an adverse balance has been an invariable feature of the trade of the island and is in part offset by interest received on capital investments abroad, remittances from Barbadians who have settled overseas, and by the tourist traffic.

* Choice 247,099 gallons ; Fancy 4,143,183 gallons ; Bottoms 1,753,014 gallons.

The value of trade for the post-war compared with the pre-war period indicates not only the increased prices of commodities, but the great advances in the standard of living of the people.

<i>Year</i>		<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports</i>
		\$	\$
1937	. . .	10,659,120	7,192,036
1938	. . .	10,017,124	5,848,219
1946	. . .	23,963,961	15,082,387
1947	. . .	34,199,664	17,832,513
1948	. . .	30,461,904	14,631,192

The steady increase in trade was curtailed by the restrictions on imports to meet the dollar crisis ; and the additional restrictions imposed since the devaluation of the pound sterling have further adversely affected trade.

Chapter 6 : Production

AGRICULTURE

Barbados contains an area of about 106,500 acres, of which 88,597 acres are stated in the 1946 Census Report to be occupied by 4,881 farms of one acre and over. The land in these farms is divided as follows : cultivated, 59,043 acres ; other cultivable, 2,150 acres ; pasture, 17,594 acres ; woodland, 1,510 acres, and other land, 8,300 acres. The area under irrigation from wells is 471 acres.

All arable land has been farmed as plantations for generations and has been owned by the occupiers or worked by local attorneys on behalf of absentee proprietors. Plantations vary in size from 10 to 500 acres. During the past thirty to forty years a number of these plantations have been cut up into small holdings and sold to peasants. The number of small plots of under one acre is given as 26,415. Methods of tenure are by complete purchase, incomplete purchase, under will, heir-at-law, as agent for owner abroad, or for deceased owner and otherwise.

Sugar Cane

Sugar cane is grown as the principal crop on all plantations and on nearly all peasant holdings. In 1949 there were 32,705 acres of cane reaped by plantations and an estimated 7,000 acres by small-holders, making a total of 39,705 acres. The actual production of sugar was the equivalent of 152,731 tons made up as follows :

Vacuum Pan Sugars . . .	133,868 tons
Muscovado . . .	1,991 "
Fancy Molasses . . .	16,872 "
	<hr/>
	152,731 "
	<hr/>

The increase of 74,505 tons over the 1948 output can be attributed to satisfactory and well-distributed rainfall particularly during the period May to December, 1948. Voluntary returns submitted for 92 per cent of the total acreage in plantation canes harvested in 1949 showed that the yield of plant canes and ratoons was 30.20 tons per acre in the Low Rainfall Category; 34.48 tons per acre in the Intermediate Rainfall Category and 37.31 tons per acre in the High Rainfall Category. There were no strikes, either in the field or factory, to interfere with reaping or grinding operations.

No new vacuum pan factories for sugar manufacture have been erected since 1939. During 1949 there were 25 vacuum pan factories, two muscovado factories and 10 fancy molasses steam-driven plants engaged in the manufacture of sugar and molasses.

Cotton

There were 721 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of Sea Island cotton reaped in 1949 which produced 162,947 lb. seed cotton, which yielded 58,169 lb. lint. The lint was exported and the seed ground locally, the extracted oil being used as a cooking oil and the residue as a stock feed.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The stud centres at the six District Agricultural Stations that were established with Colonial Development and Welfare funds have continued to play an important part in improving the quality of the colony's livestock. The number of services paid for at the six stations during the calendar year 1949 was: bulls 1,688; buck goats 1,398; ram sheep 607, and boar pigs 900. In addition, 170 weaner pigs and 6 calves have been raised and sold to peasants and planters.

The stations have been used, too, as centres for the judging rings which have been organised by the Peasants Agricultural Instructors as a means of teaching the young people better animal husbandry. The judging rings have been very popular.

An up-to-date Central Dairying and Stockbreeding Station has been established on Government lands at the Pine Plantation where dairying in all its aspects is being investigated and the possibilities of developing an economic system of animal husbandry explored. Special emphasis will be laid on dairying as an auxiliary to sugar production. This farm is also being utilised as a centre for the improvement of the island's stock of milch goats, pigs and poultry.

FORESTRY

The only part of Barbados where the old original forest covering of the island still exists is Turner's Hall Wood which occupies an area of about 46 acres. This wood is preserved by statute.

The island is dependent on imports of timber from the United States of America, Canada and British Guiana. The bagasse of crushed sugar cane provides fuel for the sugar factories while firewood and charcoal for

household use are imported from British Guiana and the neighbouring islands.

FISHERIES

With the object of improving the fishing industry, schemes financed under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and from local Government funds are being implemented. A Fisheries Branch of the Department of Science and Agriculture was established in 1944 and the necessary staff was appointed. An Advisory Fisheries Committee advises the Director of Agriculture on fishery matters.

Schemes which are being operated provide for the maintenance, expansion and development of fisheries production and for marketing and distribution of fish. Fish markets have been erected at Oistins and Bridgetown, and plans have been made for building one at Speightstown. Successful blasting operations to remove obstructing reefs and to facilitate the passage of fishing boats have been carried out at Conset's Channel (St. John), Martin's Bay Channel (St. John), Tent Bay (Bathsheba), Meg's Channel (St. Philip) and Crab Hill Bay (St. Lucy). "Hauling-up" gear has been placed at eight different points along the coast for use in cases of emergency. Beach shelters are being erected at strategic points; four sheds at Martin's Bay, Skeete's Bay, Reid's Bay and Conset's Bay have already been completed.

An experimental fisheries boat has been constructed and is being operated from an experimental station at Reef, St. Michael. Improved methods of fishing, the introduction of new types of fishing gear, improvements in the design of fishing boats, and methods of curing and preserving fish under local conditions will be investigated.

The Fishing Industry Control Act, 1947, was passed by the Legislature to provide for the compulsory registration of all fishing boats.

A loan scheme financed by local Government funds has been in operation since 1943. Under the provisions of the scheme loans are now granted for the building and repair of boats, the purchase of new sail, rope, fishing tackle, etc., on the application of persons who, in the opinion of the Advisory Fisheries Committee, are unable to contribute the entire cost themselves and are dependent on the fishing industry for a living. These loans are interest-free for the first year and for the second year onwards are subject to interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. It is estimated that, as a result of this scheme, the fishing fleet has been increased by 155 new boats. Altogether 1,112 loans have been approved for the construction of new boats and repairs to others. Up to the end of 1949, the total sum approved as loans was \$88,913.79, the total sum actually loaned \$82,853.25 and the total sum repaid \$41,634.02.

VALUE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Dr. Frederic Benham, B.Sc. (Econ.), who prepared a report on the national income of Barbados for 1942, placed the value of the exports of domestic produce at £1,950,000, the retail value of foodstuffs for

local consumption at £630,000, and that of manufactures, public utility services, etc., for local consumption at £1,030,000. The net value of all goods and services produced in Barbados in 1942 was about £5,211,000 plus £374,000 net income from abroad, or £5,600,000 in round figures.

NOTE: See the Barbados Annual Report 1947 for an Appendix under this chapter dealing with the work of the late Mr. J. R. Bovell on sugar-cane breeding.

Chapter 7 : Social Services

EDUCATION

Elementary Schools

There are 124 elementary schools which are entirely maintained by Government funds, supplemented by a grant of \$4,920 contributed by the 11 Vestries towards the upkeep of the school buildings, most of which are owned by the Government, although some still remain vested in the Church and Vestry. The schools are divided into boys', girls', and senior and junior co-educational. There are 15,223 boys and 14,493 girls on the roll. The school-leaving age is 14 years. The school inspectorate consists of two District Inspectors, an Inspector of Handicrafts, an Inspector of Domestic Subjects and an Inspector of Infants' Methods. There is a nutrition scheme which provides a mid-morning snack of milk and biscuits for each child.

Secondary Schools

There are 11 secondary schools—three first-grade and eight second-grade.

The three first-grade secondary schools with an attendance of 750 boys and 365 girls are Harrison College (boys), Queen's College (girls), both day schools in the Bridgetown area; and the Lodge School, in the parish of St. John, a day school for boys which also has a boarding establishment attached. These schools prepare pupils for the School and Higher Certificates of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. The other eight schools, consisting of four boys', three girls' and one co-educational, are scattered throughout the island, and are attended by 1,002 boys and 629 girls. The pupils of these eight schools enter for the School Certificate Examination of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

Private Schools

In addition to the public elementary and Government-aided secondary schools, there are several well-run private schools for both boys and girls, which also enter candidates for the School Certificate Examination of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. The Codrington High School in the parish of St. John and the Convent of the Sacred Heart in the parish of St. Michael are both day and boarding schools. The pupils of the Codrington High School enter for the School and Higher Certificate

Examinations of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. There is at present no supervision of these schools by the Government.

Administration

The administration of the public elementary and Government-aided secondary schools is the responsibility of the Director of Education who is assisted by one Assistant Director and an advisory board appointed by the Governor. There is a system of local committees of managers of elementary schools, who advise on local school problems, such as necessary repairs to buildings, and assist in the selection of staffs. The secondary schools have governing bodies for the purpose of administration.

Exhibitions and Scholarships

Exhibitions are provided for boys and girls to both first- and second-grade secondary schools from Government and Vestry funds.

The Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, which was passed in September, 1949, provides annually for five Barbados Scholarships, two University College of the West Indies Exhibitions and two Island Scholarships.

Four of the Barbados Scholarships are for boys and one for a girl and the winners are required to attain a standard equal to that prescribed by the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge for the award of open scholarships tenable at such colleges. The value of each scholarship is \$1,920 per annum and may extend over a period of three to six years. In addition a sum of \$240 is granted to each scholarship holder to assist in defraying travelling and other incidental expenses.

The University College of the West Indies Exhibitions, each of the value of \$1,080 per annum, are awarded on the results of the entrance examination held by the University College of the West Indies.

The Island Scholarships, each of the value of \$336 per annum, are awarded on the results of an examination set by the authorities of Codrington College in consultation with the Director of Education.

Training of Teachers

The first group of students went into residence at Erdiston College on 19th January, 1948, although the model school for practice teaching was not then quite ready for use. On the completion of this building the college was officially declared open by His Excellency the Governor on 4th November, 1948. There are 16 men and 16 women now in residence at the college. These students, who have all had some teaching experience in elementary schools, are given a course of training in modern methods. In addition, four day students from the staffs of aided secondary schools are now admitted annually to the training courses. The college has a staff of principal, vice-principal, woman tutor, lecturer and visiting instructors for special subjects such as physical training and visual education.

In addition classes in art are held on Saturdays during term time and Easter vacation refresher courses are well attended. Courses in

physical training, domestic science, handicrafts, school administration, intelligence testing and certain academic subjects are offered.

Teachers' Examinations

In addition to the Certificate of Training awarded to successful students at Erdiston College, there are two qualifying examinations for non-graduate teachers in elementary and secondary schools :

- (i) Certificate B includes academic work up to the School Certificate standard together with school method and the principles of education.
- (ii) Certificate A is awarded on the results of work executed by teachers in connection with their school duties. The practical work involved is inspected by the officers of the Education Department who also examine the theses submitted by candidates at the conclusion of the project.

Adult Education

The Barbados Evening Institute, controlled by the Department of Education, provides classes up to Intermediate B.A. standard in academic subjects, commercial classes and courses in domestic science, building and architecture, motor mechanics and electricity. In addition there are discussion groups and literacy classes.

The Resident Tutor of the University College of the West Indies organises short courses and single lectures on cultural subjects.

The British Council provides adult education in music, art and literature by means of concerts, exhibitions and lectures, and subsidises further educational work through such local bodies as the Association of Cultural Societies.

University Education

Codrington College, founded in 1710, under the will of General Christopher Codrington, who was born in Barbados, is under the control of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and is affiliated to Durham University. It admits candidates to general, classical and theological degrees of that University.

Visual Education

Training in the use and maintenance of visual aids continues at Erdiston College, while both elementary and secondary teachers received instructions through Easter and summer vacation courses.

Of all mechanical media the filmstrip projector was the most widely used in the schools through a touring visual aids unit. Teachers made their own choice of subject material from the departmental library.

Six additional filmstrip projectors were recently purchased by the Department.

During the year a photographic darkroom was set up to encourage local preparation of filmstrip material. A filmstrip "Nutrition Scheme in the Public Elementary School" was produced and is now being used in the schools. Other strips on "Pottery", "Sugar Cane Industry",

"Agriculture and Farming Industry of Barbados" and "Fishing" are now in preparation. Five hundred photographs on aspects of life in Barbados have been taken and 200 10" x 8" prints were made to form the nucleus of a photograph library.

During the year the mobile cinema unit covered 3,892 miles, and gave 197 displays to the country districts, almshouses, public institutions, evening institute, government farms, and parent-teacher associations. Its programmes comprised news reels, health films, educational and general interest films, supplied in part by the Central Office of Information, Medical Department and British Council.

Vocational Education

There are no technical schools in the Colony. Some technical training is provided by the Board of Industrial Training under the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928. In this system the training is confined to placing the apprentices under master workmen who give them a five-year course and present them for examination at the end of each year. The Director of Education is a member of the Board. The whole system of vocational education has been under review by a committee appointed by the Governor, and recommendations were submitted for a more advanced form of technical and vocational education. Cooking classes, laundry work and general housewifery are carried out in most of the girls' schools and a number of the schools have moderately well-equipped kitchens in which the senior girls are given three-year courses in general domestic science. These classes are conducted by teachers trained at the Housecraft Centre.

The classes at the Housecraft Centre are well attended. The officer in charge is attached to the Department of Education. Here the organisation of the domestic science curriculum for the island is planned. At the same time classes are given to those teachers who are responsible for the teaching of domestic science in their schools.

Evening classes in commercial and certain technical subjects are offered by the Barbados Evening Institute.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The British Council

The British Council first sent a representative to Barbados in 1945 and since then has continued to promote interest in cultural activities in the Island. A number of exhibitions, including displays of photographs, were held which were well attended. In addition, the British Council did much in providing periodicals to schools and societies and in supplying books for the libraries of secondary schools and in collecting reference books on social and technical subjects.

A 16-mm. film projector was used to show documentary films on the British way of life and educational films of scientific interest to schools and the general public. Films were also loaned to the Government mobile cinema van. A close co-operation was maintained with the Museum and an epidiascope provided for use in schools. Pictures were also lent

to schools and the Public Library, and these were changed periodically to give variety.

A library of good and representative music has been built up and scores are lent to choirs and musical societies, as are selections from the library of gramophone records.

The Museum and Historical Society

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society was incorporated by a special Act of the Legislature in 1933. The Government gave the society a lease, for 90 years, of the old abandoned Military Prison. The Museum is one of the best in the West Indies. The work began in 1933 with the aid of a grant of £1,500 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and smaller grants from the Barbados Government. About £5,000 has been spent on buildings to house the collections of books, pictures, models, specimens of birds and fishes. There is also an excellent collection of pottery, axe heads, etc. derived from the original Arawaks of the Island and a fine collection of Carib stone implements. A great deal of interesting material of this kind lies buried in those districts which were inhabited by the Arawak Indians and awaits the time when someone will be available to unearth it. A recent development, the Children's Museum, continued to be a great attraction and special visits for school children were arranged. The society publishes a quarterly journal which is now in its fifteenth volume.

The services of a full-time curator have been obtained and he took up his appointment during the year.

Public Library

In Bridgetown there is a free Public Library which dates its foundation from the passing of the first Public Library Act on 21st October, 1847. The Library is supported by public funds.

There are over 19,000 registered borrowers on the records and the book stock numbers just over 50,000 volumes. During the year ended 31st March, 1949, a total of 266,956 books were circulated.

In order to extend the scope of the library, seven deposit stations have been established in the country areas in addition to a Branch Library in Speightstown which was opened on 23rd March. A scheme has also been started to supply carefully selected books for the setting up of libraries for the use of the pupils in the rural elementary schools.

The Public Library has received substantial help from the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library (British Council) both through the presentation of books and through the training of a member of the Public Library staff for the entrance examination of the Library Association.

Association of Cultural Societies

An Association of Cultural Societies was formed towards the end of 1947 and a number of societies have become affiliated members. The association assists the cultural societies and clubs, particularly by arranging lectures, exhibitions and musical evenings.

A series of lectures were given during the year and among the subjects

were English literature, biology, the approach to music and architecture, elements of play production and a series on around the world and famous Barbadians.

The association has also sponsored several broadcast programmes over the radio diffusion service including quiz competitions, Radio Forum and poetry readings.

HEALTH

The health of the Colony was average throughout the year. There were no epidemics of any serious disease. The death rate showed a slight decrease on the previous year. The chief causes of death were the diseases of early infancy, infective and parasitic diseases and diseases of the circulatory system.

Medical attention was given to the poor and destitute by 13 part-time Parochial Medical Officers, appointed and paid by the 11 Vestries of the Colony.

The Barbados General Hospital operates as a department of Government under the provisions of the Barbados General Hospital Act, 1947 (No. 28), and the staff is composed of the following :

Wholetime : One Medical Superintendent, one surgeon specialist, one radiologist.

Part-time : Three visiting surgeons, three assistant visiting surgeons, one ophthalmic, ear, nose and throat surgeon, one assistant ophthalmic, ear, nose and throat surgeon, one house surgeon and anaesthetist, three house surgeons, one medical officer, Venereal Disease Clinic, one assistant medical officer, Venereal Disease Clinic, three out-patient medical officers, one dental surgeon.

Nursing : One matron, one assistant matron, one sister tutor, three nursing sisters.

The re-organisation of the surgical work of the hospital under the supervision of the surgeon-specialist has resulted in improved services to the public.

The senior nursing staff was not up to its full complement.

The post of radiologist was vacant for the first half of the year under review.

Good conditions prevailed during the year for the growing of locally produced provisions. Price control and subsidisation of flour, rice, salt fish, etc. continued and an adequate supply was maintained. These factors helped to maintain the nutritional level of the general population.

The Department of Medical Services Act, 1947 (No. 14), and the Quarantine Act, 1947 (No. 38), mentioned in the last Annual Report, have not yet been proclaimed. Further consideration by the Legislature was not given to the modern public health legislation mentioned in the last Report. It is envisaged that public health progress will be brought about by an improved local government structure linked with expert Central Government agencies.

Communicable Diseases

Enteric Fever. Sixty-nine cases were notified compared with 98 in the previous year. The issue of model latrines continued during the year. Contacts of cases are immunised.

Tuberculosis. Ninety-three cases were notified compared with 101 cases in the previous year. The problem of control remains difficult, but it is hoped that modern public health practices based on health centres, soon to be instituted, will effect a real improvement.

Dysentery. Twenty-one cases were notified compared with 15 last year. No differentiation as to the type of dysentery was made, but amoebic dysentery is less common than bacillary.

Diphtheria. Fourteen cases were notified compared with 12 last year. Diphtheria toxoid is supplied free to medical practitioners. When Health Centres are established it is hoped to extend the immunisation campaign to school children.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis. Six cases were notified compared with two during 1948.

Leprosy. Three cases were notified compared with two the previous year. The use of sulphetrone has given encouraging results.

Poliomyelitis. Four cases were notified during the year.

Venereal Diseases. The principal venereal diseases were syphilis and gonorrhoea. These diseases are not notifiable and exact figures cannot be given.

Institutions

The Barbados General Hospital. The accommodation at the Hospital does not suffice for the needs of the community and the question of enlarging and improving the present hospital or the provision of a new one is under consideration.

The Mental Hospital. Thirty-five dormitories, 6 day rooms and 391 single rooms supply the accommodation for patients and of these four dormitories and eight single rooms were constructed on the male and female side during the year. At the end of 1949 there were 733 inmates in-residence, 430 females and 303 males.

The Leper Hospital. During the year the treatment of patients with sulphetrone was continued. The beneficial effects of this treatment is apparent not only on the disease but also on the mental outlook of the patients. At the close of 1949 there were 38 inmates in residence, three patients were discharged as cured.

The Prison Hospital. This hospital is in charge of a visiting physician. There is accommodation for men and women.

The Government Industrial Schools. The health of the children continued satisfactory during the year. The medical work of these institutions is carried out by a part-time visiting physician.

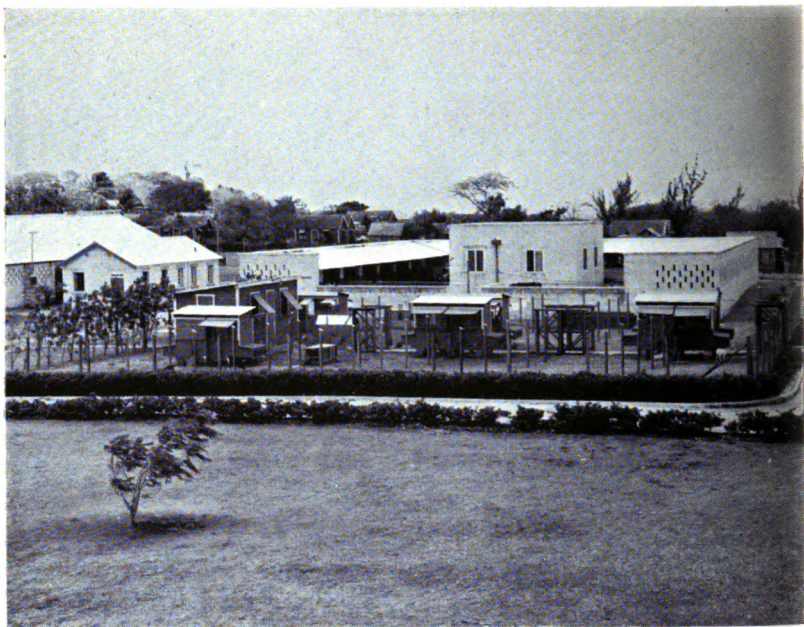
The Maternity Hospital. This hospital is intended primarily as a training school for midwives. It has accommodation for 20 expectant mothers. For the year ending December, 1949, there were 361 deliveries. The hospital also carries on an ante-natal and post-natal clinic. It is



THE BEST HOUSES IN THIS BRIDGETOWN SLUM AREA ARE BEING LIFTED AND TRANSPLANTED TO THE NEW BELFIELD ESTATE



HOUSES AS THEY NOW APPEAR AT THE BELFIELD ESTATE



CENTRAL LIVESTOCK FARM AT PINE, BARBADOS



SOME OF THE FINE BULLS OWNED BY THE CENTRAL
LIVESTOCK FARM



BRIDGETOWN CRÈCHE



A COOKERY CLASS AT THE HOUSECRAFT CENTRE



THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCH



COOPERS AT WORK

under the charge of a visiting obstetrician and a matron, who are responsible to the Chief Medical Officer for the conduct and training of the pupils.

Parochial Almshouses. There are 11 almshouses, one in each parish, for the care of the destitute sick and for the housing of the aged and poor. The Parochial Medical Officers maintain a high standard of medical care in these institutions. The administrative duties are in the hands of the churchwardens and Boards of Guardians who execute their responsibilities with care and interest. The maintenance of buildings continues to be good in general.

Hygiene and Sanitation

The administration of hygiene and sanitation remains in the hands of the 11 separate and independent Boards of Commissioners of Health appointed by the Vestries. These are lay boards without the guidance or advice of a public health officer. Under such conditions progress is necessarily slow.

Pupils of the elementary schools continue to receive instruction in hygiene and sanitation.

Elementary school children receive adequate dental and visual treatment.

Training of Health Staff

During the year two sanitary inspectors and one health visitor returned to the Island from Jamaica where they had been sent for a course in public health training. One health visitor remained to take a course in midwifery. In September two more sanitary inspectors and two nurses were sent to Jamaica for a similar course. One nurse left for the United Kingdom under a scheme for training ward sisters for the University College Hospital, Jamaica.

HOUSING

The Housing Board operates under the provisions of the Bridgetown Housing Act, 1936 (No. 8). Legislation to establish a Central Authority for the entire Colony with powers in relation to slum clearance and town planning was introduced into the Legislature which has not yet given it final consideration.

Sixty-eight houses, removed from congested areas, were placed in the Belfield area in the suburbs of Bridgetown. They were provided with sanitary units and a domestic water supply. This type of development is very interesting and promising.

A further improvement was made in the Deacons Road Housing Scheme of 66 houses where the dry earth type of sanitary unit was converted to a water-carriage system.

A pilot scheme of 38 new houses was completed in July, 1949, on the Pine Estate. They were built of coral stone with timber floors, doors and shutters and asbestos roof. Each house has a living room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom and w.c. The cost of each house was \$2,400

for building and \$960 for roads, water services, drainage and site layout. The high cost of construction and the maintenance of good standards are factors which may defy reconciliation.

An interesting experiment was started by the Architect and Planning Officer in connection with "megcrete" blocks for building purposes, the composition of which is megasse, a waste product of the sugar industry, and lime with a cement finish. A grant of \$2,400 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation has been made further to develop this scheme. House units have been constructed giving rather more accommodation than those in the pilot scheme for an inclusive cost per unit of \$2,160.

SOCIAL WELFARE

General

Social welfare services are carried on mainly as ancillary activities of existing departments: thus the provision of free milk and biscuits for elementary school children is the responsibility of the Department of Education; dental treatment for school children, poor relief services and the care of the destitute and old, that of the Chief Medical Officer etc. The Government Social Welfare Office has a particular responsibility for the development of group and youth movements. This is done by assisting existing voluntary organisations; creating old students' associations based on the schools (there are 33 of these with over 1,000 members) and developing debating and discussion groups.

Child Care

The Baby Welfare Leagues at St. Michael, Christ Church and St. Philip are voluntary organisations which cater for the needs of young children and mothers. They distribute milk and cod-liver oil and provide medical attention for the infants, and advice to the mothers. In addition to private donations, these organisations receive Government and Vestry grants annually. The Children's Goodwill League and Creche works on similar lines. The creche also provides daily accommodation for the children of working mothers. There are six young women in training as nursery nurses. A hot daily meal is given to necessitous school children of the Bridgetown area.

In December, 1947, the Nightengale Memorial Home for children was opened. Dr. H. W. Nightengale, D.D.S., a Barbadian, donated \$5,000 for the purchase of the home. It provides an establishment for the care and training of children who have been deprived of protection, discipline and love which a good home and wise parents provide. At present the Home houses 32 children transferred from the St. Michael's Almshouse ranging in age from 5 to 14 years.

Youth Organisations

There are many well-organised groups and social clubs. Among the more prominent are the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the Y.M.C.A., the Girls' Industrial Union, the Young Men's Progressive Club, the

Riverside Club and the Weymouth Club. In addition there are a number of clubs and guilds attached to various religious bodies—the Church Lads' Brigade and the Church Girls' Brigade of the Anglican Church, the Wesley Clubs and Girls' Guildry of the Wesleyan Church.

Work among Women

The chief organisations doing such work are the Barbados Women's Social Welfare League, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Mothers' Union of the Church of England and the Women's League of the Wesleyan Church.

Family Case Work

The Family Welfare Society helps to relieve families in straitened circumstances and ill and handicapped persons. Various religious bodies do work of a similar kind.

Mutual Aid Societies

Friendly Societies. There are 163 friendly societies with a membership of approximately 81,500, but many persons belong to more than one society; dependants number about 376,500. Contributions average \$652,000 annually. These societies provide relief in sickness, assist in the payment of funeral expenses and give a Christmas bonus to "financial" members.

Co-operatives. During the year there has been a marked increase in interest in co-operative ventures, especially among small farmers. There are at present 38 groups of cultivators buying artificial fertilisers and six groups buying stock feed co-operatively. Besides these loosely organised groups, there are three flourishing co-operatives, i.e. the St. Silas Men's Co-operative and the Christ Church Peasants' Co-operative which carry on a wide range of activities among the cultivators of these areas, and the Shamrock Credit Union started by the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and serving the credit needs of its members who are mainly urban workers and salary earners.

There are several groups from various walks of life in the process of organisation, and it is hoped that, now a comprehensive Co-operative Societies Bill has passed the Legislature, the development of co-operative societies should make rapid progress.

Relief of the Destitute and Disabled

Old Age Pensions. The first Old Age Pension Act came into operation on 1st May, 1938, and made provision for the payment of pensions to persons who had reached the age of 70 years at a maximum rate of 36 cents per week, with a means test of 96 cents. By amending Acts the qualifying age has been reduced to 68 years, the pension has been made available to blind persons at the age of 40 years, and the pension and the means test have been increased to \$1.20 and \$1.75 a week respectively. During 1949 the sum of \$399,261 was paid in old age pensions to 7,251 persons, and administrative expenses were \$10,677.

Parochial Poor Relief. The total number of persons who received

parochial poor relief for the year ended 24th March, 1949, was 19,626 at a cost of \$540,688.43.

An almshouse (which for practical purposes is equivalent to a cottage hospital also) is maintained in each parish of the Island. The number of persons admitted for relief into the almshouses was 748 on account of destitution and 3,005 for indoor medical relief.

The care and maintenance of the infirm, aged and destitute poor is a duty of the Vestry of the parish in which such persons are domiciled. The Poor Relief Act, 1892, established the organisation which respective Vestries have to create for carrying out these duties, but each Vestry has very wide discretion in the manner of carrying them out. The Poor Law Board—a Government department—is required by the Poor Relief Act to satisfy itself that the provisions of the law relating to the Vestries, and all other Acts for the time being in force relating to these duties, are carried out. Regular inspections of the parochial poor relief organisations, including institutions, are made at least twice a year by the Chief Medical Officer, who reports when necessary to the Governor, the Poor Law Board, and/or the Poor Law Guardians, the last-named being the appointees of the Vestry, who are charged with these duties.

The Barbados Association in Aid of the Blind, the Deaf and the Dumb. The Association was founded in 1943; it is compiling a register, the first of its kind, of all the blind, deaf and dumb persons in the Island.

The Association is at present concentrating on the training of the deaf and dumb in the school-age group. Four deaf and dumb children are now at school in Trinidad. These children are supported partly by Vestry and Government grants, partly by funds from the Association, and by help from the families, friends or people interested in the welfare of the children.

A blind man was sent in May to Trinidad to be trained in craft work and in the reading and writing of Braille, so that he may be able to return to the Island and give other blind persons the benefit of his training.

Labour Welfare Fund. During 1947 an Act was passed imposing a levy on sugar and molasses made in the Island. Part of the levy, \$2.40 per ton of the sugar produced, was used to create a fund to be used for welfare purposes for the “benefit of workers in the sugar industry.” By the end of 1949 there was \$817,728 in the Treasury to the credit of the fund. It was decided that \$400,000 of that amount be used to create a Housing Loan Fund, and \$300,000 be allocated for the provision of community halls and playing fields, one in each Vestry area. During the year work was started on the Reef Playing Field (St. Michael) and the Belleplane Playing Field (St. Andrew).

Other Institutions

The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army has 11 thriving corps in the Island. Their headquarters have night shelters for men and women. The Chief Probation Officer and the female Probation Officer are officers of the Salvation Army.

Seamen's Welfare. The Royal and Merchant Naval Welfare League, the Port Welfare Committee and the Seamen's Club cater for the welfare of seamen.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Barbados District of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas continues to serve the community in many ways, i.e. helping at Baby Welfare Leagues and at public functions whenever the first-aid squad is likely to be necessary. There are seven nursing divisions and one ambulance division.

The following institutions are supported by private donations and subscriptions :

Ladies' Association for the Relief of the Indigent Sick and Infirm.

The Goodridge Home for Distressed Gentlemen.

The Bessie Yearwood Home for Orphans.

The Haynes Memorial School (formerly the Daily Meal School).

The Almair Home for Elderly Gentlewomen.

The Home for Elderly Gentlemen.

The following are supported by funds from various religious organisations : the St. Mary's Home for Elderly Women, the St. Paul's Home for Elderly Women, and the St. Matthias Poor House are maintained by the Church of England ; the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the St. Patrick's Poor School are supported by Roman Catholic Church funds.

Juvenile Delinquency

The incidence of juvenile delinquency in Barbados is low in comparison with countries in Europe and the Americas, and the offences reported are seldom of a serious nature.

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over the 7-16 age group, and 457 children and young persons, 235 of whom were found guilty, appeared before courts of this type during 1949. The island population in this age-group is 39,993 (1946 census).

Offences fall into three categories :

Those against property, which accounted for 119 (including 75 larcenies and 10 housebreakings).

Those against the person, which accounted for 256 (including 177 minor assaults and beatings).

Miscellaneous breaches of Highway Acts, etc.—82.

The breaking and entering cases as a rule involve the theft of food and portable property of little value, and more than half the other larcenies comprise the theft of odd sugar cane, coconuts and growing fruit.

The assault cases usually arise from childish quarrels and are further provoked by faulty parental attitudes. A new Rule recently made under the Juvenile Offenders Act gives probation officers opportunity for conciliatory action, and it is hoped that this will reduce considerably the number of minor affairs reaching the courts.

Case disposal presents many difficulties. In accordance with modern

practice, however, due regard is given to the welfare of the offender. Forms of treatment adopted during 1949 were :

Reprimanded	112	Fined	3
Whipped	3	Industrial School . .	24
Bound over without supervision	3	Parent fined	1
Probation	87	Other methods	2

Juvenile Courts are held in each Police District, wherever possible in rooms separate from the adult courtrooms. A probation officer is always present to advise on the treatment of the offender.

Probation

This form of treatment is widely used by the Courts, and during the year probationers dealt with numbered 319 (147 men, 27 women, 95 boys, 50 girls). The number of new cases added during the year was 161 (64 men, 12 women, 54 boys, and 31 girls). Response to supervision is generally high.

The Probation Service is staffed by 5 officers (3 men and 2 women officers) and a clerical assistant. There is also a male officer undergoing a course of training in the United Kingdom.

In addition to their supervisory duties officers assist the Court by making pre-trial and other investigations. Case-history reports are submitted which prove of assistance to the Magistrate when deciding case treatment, and the officers' help and advice is sought in those cases involving disputes between husband and wife. Assistance is also given when requested in connection with applications for bastardy orders.

The Courts find the Probation Service a valuable adjunct to the dispensation of justice and the steady growth of the system is a mark of its usefulness to the community.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

The year 1949 was a year of considerable legislative activity and one of the first measures was an Act authorising that Government accounts should be kept in dollars and cents instead of pounds, shillings and pence. This measure was the outcome of the West Indian Currency Conference which met in 1946 and made recommendations regarding the unification of currencies in the British territories of the Eastern Caribbean. As the majority of the commercial houses already kept their accounts in West Indian dollars, the change has resulted in unification in the Island itself.

The system by which offices in the Civil Service were established was radically changed by the passing of the Civil Establishment Act. Previously each Department of Government was established by a separate Act ; the establishment provisions of these Acts were repealed and now the offices are established by Order of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Legislature. At the same time the Orders under the Act set out the salaries of the various offices, and the

first series of Orders gave effect to such recommendations of the recent Salaries Commission as were accepted by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

An Act was passed which brought up to date the law on interpretation. The Act sought to promote brevity and uniformity in the language of statutes and provided rules of construction.

Three Acts were passed which dealt with matters of interest to members of the House of Assembly. These provided for the remuneration of members of the House, the remuneration of members of the Executive Committee, and the extension of the life of the House from two to three years.

An important measure that created considerable controversy was the Therapeutic Substances Act, which was designed to safeguard the community against the misuse of antibiotics by means of a system of licensing of importation, storage, distribution, sale and use of antibiotics and the restriction of dealings in antibiotics to authorised persons.

Towards the end of the year the cumbersome and inadequate Compulsory Powers (Land) Act of 1888 was replaced by the Land Acquisition Act. Under the Act land may be acquired compulsorily by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and by certain statutory bodies by notification in the *Official Gazette* and in a daily newspaper. Compensation may be fixed by agreement or by the Court of Common Pleas in which latter case the Chief Justice will be assisted by two assessors, unless the claimant elects that the matter be determined by the Chief Justice alone. The principles on which compensation should be computed are set out in the Act, the basic idea being that it should be on existing use value of the land in accordance with the standards of value prevailing in the open market. No development value is allowed except in the case of land within close proximity to a town or built up area which is suitable as a building site. Improvements carried out within two years of the notification with the object of increasing the compensation are excluded from the computation.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The Chief Justice of the Island is appointed by His Majesty the King and presides over the Superior Courts, that is to say, the Courts of Chancery, Common Pleas, Ordinary, Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, Grand Sessions, Admiralty Bankruptcy, Escheat and Error.

The Court of Error hears appeals from the Assistant Court of Appeal when that Court has exercised both original and appellate jurisdiction. However, appeals to the Court of Error from the Assistant Court of Appeal on a finding made in its appellate capacity is limited to points of law, though appeals from its original jurisdiction may be made on both points of law and points of fact.

Appeals lie from the Superior Courts mentioned above, except the

Court of Grand Sessions, to the West Indian Court of Appeal. In the case of the Court of Grand Sessions the Chief Justice may in his own discretion reserve any question of law arising during the hearing of any matter before the Court of Grand Sessions for the consideration of the West Indian Court of Appeal. The right of appeal to His Majesty in Council is preserved by section 14 of the West Indian Court of Appeal Act, 1920.

The Court of Grand Sessions sits three times a year in March, July and November. Before a person can be brought before the Court for trial on a criminal charge the Grand Jury must return a true bill.

The Assistant Court of Appeal has original and appellate jurisdiction. Two judges sit together when the Court is in its appellate sessions, but only one judge sits when it is exercising its original jurisdiction. In its original jurisdiction the Court has powers to determine cases of debt in which the value of the claim exceeds \$96 but does not exceed \$240, and in all pleas of personal action where the claim is over \$48 but does not exceed \$240. The Court also possesses powers to deal with limited cases of equity and probate. In its appellate jurisdiction the Court hears appeals from the decisions of the Magistrates and from the Court of the Petty Debt Judge for Bridgetown.

The magistrates preside over the District Police Courts, three hearing the criminal cases that arise in Bridgetown and four hearing those in the other districts of the Island. In Bridgetown there is, in addition to the magistrates dealing with criminal cases, a Petty Debt Court Judge who presides over civil cases. The four district magistrates outside Bridgetown deal with both criminal and civil cases. The magistrates also deal with cases involving juvenile offenders and complaints against children and young persons are heard at special times and in different buildings from the main court and they are assisted by the Probation Officer, who was appointed in 1947.

No cases of exceptional interest either in fact or questions of law were heard during 1949.

POLICE

The recommendations of the Report on the Police Force by Superintendent Calver of the London Metropolitan Police are gradually being implemented, and action is now being taken with a view to bringing into force certain of the recommendations requiring legislative authority, for example, the delegation of authority to the Deputy Commissioner to inflict punishment on members of the Force below the rank of sergeant, the creation of the rank of inspectors, etc.

The establishment of the Force, as authorised in the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1949, is one Commissioner, one Deputy Commissioner, six Superintendents, three sergeants-major, 19 sergeants, 25 lance-sergeants, 67 corporals and 442 constables, together with 37 writ servers. The actual strength was less than these figures by one Deputy Commissioner, two sergeants, one corporal and 39 constables at the end of the year. Distributed over the island are nine police stations, 10 sub-

stations, two police posts and a guard-house. The change from last year is due to the closing down of three police posts during September and November, as it was considered uneconomical and also a waste of manpower to keep them open.

Four of the larger stations are in wireless communication with the Central Station and all stations are connected by telephone through the police exchange. The transport section consists of 2 heavy lorries, 10 vans and 8 motor cycles.

The total number of cases of all kinds reported to the Police during 1949 was 5,699 compared with 5,798 in 1948. Indictable and minor offences numbered 419 and 2,829 respectively in 1949 and in addition there were 2,351 traffic cases. These figures show a decrease of 43 indictable offences and a decrease of minor offences of 238. There were three cases of murder, compared with seven in 1948, one accused was discharged at the preliminary investigation and two are awaiting trial.

The total number of motor and other traffic cases reported increased by 82. The number of mechanically propelled vehicles increased from 4,270 in 1948 to 4,603 in 1949. As a result of traffic accidents 19 persons were killed, an increase of one over the previous year. Nine thousand six hundred and ten driving licences were issued and renewed.

Cane fires reported numbered 195 compared with 89 in 1948. The acreage damaged was 1,051 compared with 659.

Mounted men with loud hailing equipment strapped on their backs proved a very successful method of controlling the congestion in the streets at Christmas time.

A Police Display was held on the Garrison Savannah on 10th November, 1949. This consisted of eight platoons marching past in different types of uniform, a musical ride by the mounted troop followed by the band and drums beating the Retreat. A crowd of about 8,000 attended.

The Police Band fulfilled 230 engagements during the year and continued to be an outstanding source of pleasure to the community.

PRISONS

There is one central prison, the Glendairy Prison, which houses male and female prisoners in separate compounds, and has cell accommodation for 275 males and 125 females. The establishment consists of the Superintendent of the Prison, 50 male and 12 female prison officers.

Male prisoners are separated as far as possible into first offenders and recidivists and are classified for the purpose of vocational training. Female prisoners do the cooking and laundry for the whole prison.

First offenders are only employed on duties inside the prison and generally these duties are of a lighter nature and may involve vocational training under instructors in carpentry, tailoring, bread-making, and other trades. Other offenders are employed in stone-quarrying, stone-breaking, horticulture, farming (small stock), and the upkeep of Government lands outside the prison.

Offenders in the first division are permitted to obtain their food from outside at their own expense and may wear their own clothes, and are

employed at light labour within the prison. Prisoners in the second division wear a distinctive dress from ordinary offenders. Unconvicted prisoners awaiting trial are permitted to wear their own clothing and may procure their own food from outside, and if they work are paid for it.

A medical officer visits the prison daily and examines all new admissions in addition to attending to sick offenders. The general health of the prisoners during 1949 was good. The Church of England chaplain visits the prison three times a week and conducts a service on Sundays and festivals. In addition he supervises a library and school which are maintained for the benefit of the prisoners. Well-conducted prisoners are allowed to study in the evenings in congregation rooms. During the year fairly liberal assistance with money, clothing and tools was given to discharged prisoners owing to the increased cost of living and unemployment.

The total number of persons imprisoned during 1949 was 200, a decrease on the 1948 figure which was 290. The daily average was 159 males and 7 females compared with 150 males and 12 females during 1948.

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

There are separate Government Industrial Schools for boys and girls under one Superintendent. Twenty-three boys and three girls were admitted to the schools during 1949 for periods varying from 3 to 5 years compared with 14 boys and one girl during 1948. The daily average was 66 boys and 9 girls compared with 71 and 11 respectively in 1948.

During the year money was voted to provide the books and equipment necessary to bring the schools up to date.

Careful attention is being paid to vocational training with increasing emphasis on handicraft. At the Local Arts and Crafts Exhibition 13 boys and nine girls won certificates of merit. The girls at Summervale also gained five prizes at the Annual Industrial Exhibition. The activities in the schools comprise :

Stock Farm. A small stock farm is maintained at the boys' school so that an interest may be taken in animal husbandry. Poultry rearing is encouraged at Summervale (girls).

Vegetable Garden. Owing to inadequate water supply the rotation of cropping has been handicapped and restricted to the planting of ground-nuts, bananas and sweet potatoes.

Carpenters' Shop. The furniture and fittings of the institution continued to be made by the boys under the supervision of an instructor.

Masonry. Maintenance of the interior of the buildings and minor repairs were undertaken by the boys in this department.

Tailors' Shop. All the clothing worn by the boys and the male staff is made by the boys under the supervision of an instructor. The girls are supervised in the making of their own clothes by a member of the staff of the girls' school.

Shoemakers' Shop. A part-time instructor is engaged twice weekly.

Handicraft. One of the teaching staff gives instruction in the making

of hammocks, handbags, baskets, mats, brushes, brooms and slippers. The girls attend a domestic science class weekly and are supervised in handicraft by a part-time instructress.

Recreation. Cricket and football are the principal outdoor games. A team from the school participated in the fixtures of the Barbados Cricket League during the year.

The usual variety of indoor games including cards, table tennis and draughts was engaged in. It is unfortunate that the instruction in chess by the Barbados Chess Club was limited to six months only, as a sufficient and working knowledge which would maintain interest in the game could not be imparted to the boys in so short a period.

Boys who behaved well throughout the year were allowed to visit their parents and guardians.

The system of after-care is under review.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

WATERWORKS

The Waterworks Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance and extension of the waterworks for the supply of the whole island with water for domestic and industrial purposes. There are five pumping stations and approximately 660 miles of main pipes laid. Seven hundred and twenty-eight standpipes distributed throughout the Island give the inhabitants a free supply of water. In addition, approximately 7,250 premises are supplied with laid-on water by the department. Water is also supplied to the shipping in Carlisle Bay when required.

The scheme prepared by the Hydraulic and Electrical Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare for the modernising of the water supply system is being implemented and further investigated with the object of providing an efficient system over the next 20 years.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is supplied by a private company, the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation Limited, to private and public premises, and is used for street lighting in Bridgetown and part of Christ Church. Power is supplied to many of the sugar factories. The company operates under the Electric Light and Power (Provisional Orders Confirmation) Act, 1907. The whole island is not yet supplied, but under the terms of the Act the company has the right to extend its service to any area within 50 years from 1st August, 1936.

Electricity is generated at 3,300 volts and is supplied to the high-tension distribution network at 3,300 volts and 11,000 volts. Domestic and other low-tension supply is at 110 volts, 50 cycles A.C., general power supply is at 208 volts two and three phase. The number of consumers at 31st December, 1949, was 7,349 compared with 6,731 in 1948.

A Government Electrical Inspector has been appointed under the

Electricity Act, 1936. His duties are to inspect annually all Government installations and apparatus, to inspect new installations on public or private premises to see that they comply with the Electric Light and Power Act and that they meet the proper safety requirements, and to inspect the wiring from the Electric Company's mains to the consumers' meters. In addition, the Government Electrical Inspector performs duties and is vested with powers under the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940.

GAS

A small Gas Company operates under the terms of the Gas Act, 1911, and supplies gas to private consumers in the Bridgetown and Hastings areas. In addition, some of the older parts of Bridgetown still use gas for street lighting.

The company uses "natural gas" relayed by way of the Belle Pumping Station from Turner's Hall to its works.

BROADCASTING

A wire broadcasting system, confined to Bridgetown and suburbs, is provided by a local company—Radio Distribution (Barbados) Limited—with 3,198 subscribers. The company operates under an agreement with the Government entered into in accordance with the provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940, and relays programme items received by wireless from abroad and also broadcasts news of local and West Indian interest.

The only direct reception in the Island is from the British Broadcasting Corporation's Empire Service and foreign stations operating on short-wavelengths. There is no local wireless broadcasting service, but Government possesses a small transmitter which is used occasionally to transmit, locally and to neighbouring islands, programmes approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT AND PLANNING OFFICER

The Department was formed in April, 1946, and was at first paid for partly under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, but was taken over in its entirety by the Barbados Government in April, 1947. Its first task is housing and town and country planning; the two have been linked in the Barbados Housing and Town and Country Planning Bill which is not yet law. While waiting for this legislation, the Department has designed and erected various Government buildings.

Schools. The Department has been concerned to produce a standard type design to meet the large school building requirements of the Department of Education.

St. Leonard's Girls' Modern Secondary School. Work started late in 1948 upon the construction of a new girls' modern secondary school in Bridgetown, which will accommodate 755 pupils. Besides the classrooms, there is to be an assembly hall, library, laboratory and craftrooms. The estimated cost is \$216,000.

The Coleridge and Parry School. Work has started upon the construction of a new boys' secondary school to serve the northern parishes and to replace two existing secondary schools whose buildings have ceased to be serviceable—the Parry School and the Coleridge School. The new school will accommodate 420 boys. Accommodation will include hall, library, art room and laboratories. The school is to have a course with an agricultural basis and its estimated cost is \$144,960.

PUBLIC WORKS

During 1949, normal maintenance work on Government buildings, including the General Hospital, was carried out by the Public Works Department.

Due to damage by flood waters in August, portions of the boundary walls at Glendairy and the Leper Hospital were rebuilt, and the ground floors of Combermere School were taken up and relaid. The cost of these works was approximately \$131,500. Repairs to wharf walls, using interlocking steel piles, were continued at a cost of \$12,965.

The following capital works begun in 1948 were completed :

Mental Hospital—Female Dormitory	cost	\$55,000
Occupational Therapy Sheds	„	5,600
Two Isolation Wards	„	4,772
Eagle Hall—Police Post	„	27,300
Seawell—Alterations and extensions	„	10,091
St. Ann's Court—Conversion of barracks into flats	„	61,200

During the year funds were provided for the following works :

Renovation of House of Assembly and Council Chamber	completed cost	\$6,720
Extension of Department of Science and Agriculture	„ „	43,680
Extension of Bacteriological Laboratory	„ „	10,085
Additional accommodation for warders at Glendairy Prison	„ „	3,726
Provision of shelter shed at Market	„ „	1,160
Provision of additional lavatories, Department of Highways & Transport	„ „	800
Conversion of building into Police Post at Oistins	„ „	8,112
Fish Market at Oistins	„ „	4,154

Shelter sheds at Reids Bay, Consetts, and Skeetes Bay, and a tractor house at Bathsheba were erected for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, at a cost of \$3,560.

Work was commenced on alterations and extensions to the Law Courts (\$48,000), and on alterations to Trafalgar Square (\$41,000). The bus terminus was surfaced at a cost of \$3,000.

The Chalky Mount Primary School with six classrooms, headmaster's study, assembly hall and lavatories to accommodate 80 infants and 160 juniors, was started in December, 1948. The site is difficult in that it

is steeply sloped and of clay foundation which is liable to movement. Extensive use of a bulldozer proved valuable in the preparation of the site.

Chapter II : Communications

SHIPPING

The steamship lines at present calling at Barbados are :

From the United Kingdom and European Ports—The Harrison Line, the Elder & Fyffes Line, the Blue Star Line, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company and the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, though the three latter have not established a regular service to the island.

From Canada—The Canadian National Steamships and the Alcoa Steamship Company, Incorporated.

From the United States of America—The Alcoa Steamship Company, Incorporated and Furness Withy & Company Limited.

From Newfoundland—The Newfoundland Railways operate a fleet of small motor vessels of about 325 tons.

From South America—The Booth Line and the Lamport and Holt Line, both of which visit at irregular intervals, and the Flotta Mercante del Estada operating a freight service with the Argentine.

From India and the Far East—The Nourse Line visits periodically.

Inter-Colonial Service—The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique operated an inter-colonial service between the islands of the French Antilles and the Guianas, calling at Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad up to July, 1949.

During 1949, 999 merchant vessels with a total net tonnage of 1,234,120 tons arrived at the port, compared with 971 vessels of 1,076,557 tons in 1948. In addition to the above, four British men-of-war, nine American men-of-war, one Dutch man-of-war, 13 yachts, 8 Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, 3 training ships, 2 cable ships and one naval tug visited Barbados. Six cruise ships carrying 1,626 tourists also visited the port during the year. Six hundred and twenty-seven vessels with a total gross tonnage of 73,680 tons entered the carenage compared with 691 vessels of 63,716 tons in 1948. Of these 159 were steam or motor vessels, the remainder being sailing vessels.

The number of seamen engaged at the port during the year was 1,067 and 979 were discharged. The number of seamen engaged at the port to serve in ships going to foreign ports was 692 and of this number 208 were still serving afloat at the end of the year.

AIR

The headquarters of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for the West Indies is at Barbados.

Barbados has one airfield at Seawell, about 12 miles from Bridgetown. The number of aircraft arriving during the year was 1,242 compared with 1,141 in 1948. The large majority of these were planes on the scheduled flights of the British West Indian Airways.

Passengers arriving by air numbered 12,074 and 12,063 departed out of totals of 16,870 and 15,847 passengers respectively entering and leaving the island.

ROADS

The Department of Highways and Transport is responsible for the maintenance of the main highways and controls public transport and road traffic.

The roads over which the Director has authority are set out in a schedule to the Highways and Transport Act, 1945, and new roads may be added by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. The upkeep of the remaining roads is still the responsibility of the Vestry of the parish in which it lies. The Island is approximately 166 square miles of land, all of which is either occupied or closely cultivated, and this comparatively small area is served by 576 miles of road open to traffic, of which 422 are oil-emulsion surfaced. These roads are, to a large extent, in good order and are fully capable of serving the somewhat exacting needs of the varied forms of transport common throughout Barbados.

In the main the Department of Highways and Transport controls and maintains the arterial highways radiating from Bridgetown and certain connecting roads, including all the roads in the parishes of St. Michael, St. Andrew and St. Lucy totalling 315 miles, of which 300 are oil-emulsion surfaced.

The department is also responsible for the maintenance of the runway of Seawell Airport.

As a result of the improved conditions of the roads and the absence of difficult gradients, except perhaps in the Scotland area, practically the whole Island is accessible to motor and other traffic. The number of private cars in use at the end of the year was 2,712 and in addition there were 1,742 commercial motor vehicles, 149 motor cycles, 18,126 pedal bicycles and a large number of animal-drawn carts.

The city of Bridgetown and the suburbs are served by omnibuses running at frequent intervals and at moderate fares not exceeding 3 cents per section or part thereof. Omnibuses have their termini in Bridgetown and depart thence for the seaside districts, as well as to the more popular residential inland parts of the Island. The country districts are provided with a daily service.

One hundred and thirty-five omnibuses operate in the island on routes approved by the Director of Highways and Transport; they are owned by 14 private owners who receive a concession to run a service. At the moment most of the omnibuses are of an open-side type.

POSTS

The General Post Office is situated in the Public Buildings in Bridgetown. In addition there are 10 parish offices and two sub-offices, all of which transact full postal business. Letters posted at any post office within the scheduled hours are delivered to the addressees the same day.

The total revenue and expenditure of the Post Office over the past five years is given in the table overleaf. The gross revenue column includes

customs duties, package tax and stamp duties. In the net revenue column these have been subtracted so that the true postal revenue can be ascertained.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Gross Revenue</i>	<i>Net Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	\$	\$	\$
1945 . . .	351,254	277,142	194,021
1946 . . .	412,344	289,387	209,530
1947 . . .	497,851	331,373	251,069
1948 . . .	462,590	314,592	270,154
1949 . . .	579,608	391,057	298,166

Notwithstanding an increase in expenditure in 1949 of \$28,012, mainly due to increases in personal emoluments, the surplus net revenue over expenditure is \$92,891. This increase is due mainly to the sale of postage stamps which was \$32,121 more than in 1948. The Barbados stamps in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union were issued on 10th October and the revenue from those sold to philatelists also contributed to this satisfactory position.

The following table shows the number of articles despatched and received by air and ocean mails during the two years 1948 and 1949.

	<i>Despatched</i>		<i>Received</i>	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Air Mail . . .	753,194	785,569	754,001	739,427
Registered . . .	21,400	27,319	50,083	56,881
TOTAL . . .	774,594	812,888	804,084	796,308
Ocean Mail . . .	218,334	226,713	444,096	476,385
Registered . . .	7,309	6,810	8,829	10,412
TOTAL . . .	225,643	233,523	452,925	486,797
GRAND TOTAL	1,000,237	1,046,411	1,257,009	1,283,105

There is an appreciable increase in the number of air mail articles despatched, while the number of those received show a decrease of 7,776 when compared with 1948.

The number of inland postal articles dealt with during the year was 1,878,678 made up as follows :

Letters	770,325
Postcards	29,006
Official letters	198,861
Registered letters	26,410
	<hr/>
	1,024,602
Book packets (including official 34,775)	66,295
Other articles	787,781
	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	1,878,678

Although the figures relating to parcels have not been included in previous reports, the unusual growth of this branch of the postal service deserves special mention.

The following table shows the traffic in parcels during the four years 1937, 1938, 1948 and 1949 :

Calendar year	1937	1938	1948	1949
Parcels—In . . .	8,944	8,762	39,692	57,352
Parcels—Out . . .	42,601	41,735	48,016	43,223
TOTALS . . .	<u>51,545</u>	<u>50,497</u>	<u>87,708</u>	<u>100,575</u>

During the year 1949 the Post Office handled 4,308,769 articles as compared with 4,359,171 in 1948. Parcel mail is included in both totals.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Island is an important centre for both cable and radio communication, being the junction point of several cables as well as the site of a large modern wireless installation of great range, established by Cable and Wireless Limited.

External telecommunications services are operated by the Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Limited, controlled by Cable and Wireless, Limited. This company owns and operates cable connections with most of the other important West Indian islands and British Guiana, and through Turks Island and Bermuda to Halifax, where connection is made with the company's North Atlantic cable system to Great Britain and other parts of the world.

The company has also established in the Island large long-range wireless installations which, with its previously established wireless coast station, are operated in conjunction with the cable system and provide services with many parts of the world and with a number of other West Indian islands which are not connected by cable. The coast station also provides a service with ships at sea.

The wireless telephone service, which was inaugurated in 1945 in collaboration with the Barbados Telephone Company, has since been extended and now provides services to the Commonwealth and foreign territories.

The Western Telegraph Company, Limited, and the Western Union Telegraph Company, also controlled by Cable and Wireless, Limited, have direct cable communication with Brazil and South America and Miami, respectively.

There is no internal telegraph system. Internal communications are provided by a telephone service serving all parts of the island and operated by a private company, the Barbados Telephone Company, Limited, which has a modern automatic central exchange in Bridgetown and three branch exchanges, one of which is automatic. There are 3,072 exchange lines, 3,900 stations and eight private branch exchanges with a total wire mileage of 16,000.

Chapter 12 : Barbados Regiment

At the conclusion of the South African war the Imperial Government made it known that they intended to withdraw the regular troops stationed in the Island. The local Government, realising the necessity of providing itself with its own armed forces, passed an Act to establish the Barbados Volunteer Force. This came into being on 2nd July, 1902. The Governor, Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G., was its first Commanding Officer.

The establishment of the Force consisted of an infantry company of 50 members, a detachment of artillery and another of cyclists. The Inspector of Police was made *ex officio* Adjutant of the Force.

The first public parade in which the Barbados Volunteer Force took part was at His Majesty the King's Birthday Parade in 1904, when they paraded with a battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment.

In 1907 a detachment of the Barbados Volunteer Force was sent to St. Lucia to assist in quelling riots; and in 1911 a contingent was sent to represent Barbados at His Majesty King George V's Coronation.

During the 1914-18 War the Force carried out certain defence duties, many of its members obtaining leave to proceed overseas to join active service units.

During the intervening years of peace, regular serving officers were appointed to carry out the duties of Staff Officer of the Local Forces and Adjutant of the Barbados Volunteer Force.

In 1939 the Force was embodied, and additional United Kingdom officers were later attached to assist in training.

In October, 1942, the War Office decided to absorb the Force into the Caribbean Regiment, the local Battalion being known as the Barbados Battalion. This unit subsequently became the Islands Battalion and was disbanded in 1947.

Before demobilisation, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., appointed a committee to make recommendations on the reconstitution of the Barbados Volunteer Force. The recommendations were approved and the War Office handed over arms, ammunition, clothing, equipment, etc. to form a battalion.

Soon after recruiting started application was made to the local Government to have the name of the Force changed to the Barbados Regiment. The War Office raised no objection to this and the necessary bill was passed through the Legislature on 25th November, 1948.

In response to an application made in August, 1948, the Barbados Regiment is now affiliated to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, which has associations with the Island.

In May, 1949, a Staff Officer and a R.S.M. (I) Instructor were seconded from the Regular Army to supervise the organisation and training of the Regiment; and to assist in the military training of the Police Force.

During the year, the annual camp was held in St. Andrews, and an inspection of the Local Forces was carried out by the Commander, Caribbean Area. The Regiment also provided a Guard of Honour for the arrival of His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Savage.

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

BARBADOS, the most easterly of the West Indian islands, is situated in latitude $13^{\circ} 4'$ North and longitude $59^{\circ} 37'$ West. In latitude it compares with Madras or the Gambia, but the climate differs from both. The Island is triangular in shape and is 21 miles long by 14 miles across the widest part. It contains approximately 166 square miles, with a population at the end of 1949 of 207,262. It is approximately the size of the Isle of Wight.

Natural and climatic conditions justify the claim of Barbados to be the healthiest of all West Indian islands. The Island is much resorted to by residents in neighbouring Colonies, and a considerable number of visitors from northern climates find it an agreeable change. There is little variation in temperature, the range being generally from 69° to 90° F. and in the cool months—December to May—as low occasionally as 64° . The Island during this time gets the full benefit of the cool north-east trade winds.

“The geological structure of Barbados is extremely simple. It consists of a basement of much-folded sandstones and shales (the Scotland series) covered unconformably by the soft, chalklike rocks of the Oceanic series. Except in the Scotland district, both of these geological series are covered unconformably with a layer of coral limestone which varies in thickness from a thin veneer to 240–260 feet.”*

The Island lies almost out of the track of hurricanes, although it is a matter of history that these have swept over it at far intervals, notably in 1780, 1831 and 1898, doing considerable damage. Earth tremors have been occasionally felt, but severe earthquake shocks have not occurred.

In May 1812 Mount Soufrière on the island of St. Vincent, which is 95 miles to the west of Barbados, erupted, and thousands of tons of dust were deposited on the Colony. The dust is said to have improved the soil of the fields.

In appearance Barbados is peculiarly English. It lacks entirely the restless luxuriance of other tropical islands. Its general aspect is green and undulating, and because the colour of the sugar cane is the same as that of grass, for many months of the year the Barbados landscape recalls the downs of Sussex or the weald of Kent. The plantation houses, set in copses of dark-foliaged trees, increase the similarity.

The Island has many attractions for tourists—yachting, golf, cricket, tennis and some of the finest sea-bathing in the world. The hotels are good, and most of the clubs are open to visitors. The Island produces

* Starkey, *Economic Geography of Barbados*.

fine thoroughbred horses which compete successfully in the race meetings of other islands. The Barbados Turf Club holds three meetings a year. Polo is played, and there are pleasant rides over the countryside, particularly along the "intervals," as the grassy bridle paths through the fields are locally called.

Chapter 2 : History

The original inhabitants of Barbados were the Arawak Indians who migrated probably from the mainland of South America. When they arrived is not known, but relics of their occupation down to the latter years of the sixteenth century have been discovered in various parts of the Island. By the time the English settlers came they had disappeared, partly through Carib raids from the neighbouring islands, and partly through the Spaniards, who deported them to work in the mines of Hispaniola.

The first Europeans to sight Barbados were Portuguese, at some time in the sixteenth century. They called it Los Barbados after the bearded fig trees they found there. In 1536 Pedro a Campos visited the Island and left pigs to breed so that wayfarers should not lack food. He found no Indians. The Island was deserted. The Portuguese never claimed possession of the Island and it remained without nationality until Captain Cataline of the *Olive Blossom*, driven out of his course on a voyage to Guiana, landed on the leeward coast near the modern Holetown and erected a cross and inscribed on a tree nearby "JAMES K OF E AND OF THIS ISLAND." This happened in 1625; but it was not until 1627 that the first settlement was made. In the previous year the King, James I, granted the Island to the Earl of Marlborough, whose protégé, Sir William Courteen, fitted out an expedition commanded by one John Powell. Powell, however, carried letters of marque and, having captured a Spanish prize, returned with it to Cowes in July 1626 without having reached the Island. A second expedition was fitted out, and on 20th February, 1627, the ship *William and John*, commanded by Henry Powell, landed 80 settlers at the spot where Captain Cataline had set up his cross. They called it the Hole, hence the modern name of Holetown.

Meanwhile, in 1623, another nobleman, the Earl of Carlisle, had shown his interest in the West Indies. Under his patronage Thomas Warner had succeeded in establishing in St. Christopher the first settlement in the British West Indian Colonies. In 1627, when Charles I issued Letters Patent to Lord Carlisle granting him proprietary rights over all the "Caribbee Islands" Barbados was apparently included. Lord Carlisle bought off Lord Marlborough's interest by settling on him and his heirs an annuity of £300. Courteen fitted out the original expedition of 1625, waited until Lord Carlisle was absent from England and induced yet another nobleman, the Earl of Pembroke, to claim Barbados. Once again Letters Patent were issued, this time granting Barbados and three

other islands to Lord Pembroke. When Lord Carlisle returned to England and discovered what had happened, he succeeded in getting himself reinstated. He also took practical steps to secure his possession of the Island by sending out sixty-four new settlers who founded St. Michael's town, on the site of Bridgetown, the present capital. This settlement immediately quarrelled with the older colony and after a fight, the windward men, as the newcomers were called, overcame the leeward men.

In 1636 Lord Carlisle died, leaving his rights in Barbados and the Caribee Islands in trust for the payment of his debts with remainder to his son, who, in 1647, leased his rights to Lord Willoughby of Parham for twenty-one years. In 1650 Lord Willoughby assumed the Government of Barbados in the name of the King and caused an Act to be passed recognising the rights of the King, Lord Carlisle and himself; but in 1652 the Island capitulated to a force despatched by the Commonwealth on terms providing for government by a Governor appointed by the Commonwealth. This was the extinction of proprietary rule.

At the Restoration the various claims based or secured on the Carlisle Patent revived, but a return to the proprietary system was strongly opposed by the planters whose titles to land were in many cases defective. After lengthy negotiations a settlement was arrived at, based on the surrender of the Carlisle Patent to the Crown and the compensation of the various claims out of a fixed revenue provided by the Colony in return for the confirmation of local land titles. The financial terms of the settlement were laid down by an Order in Council allocating the future revenue of the Caribee Islands, that is to say, Barbados and the Leeward Islands, to the satisfaction of the claims, after which it was to revert to the Crown. The revenue itself was provided by a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent duty on exports which was imposed by Acts passed by the Barbados Legislature in 1663, and by that of the Leeward Islands in 1664. This duty continued in force and was a constant source of grievance to the Colonies until 1838 when it was abolished by an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Barbados has never changed hands since the date of settlement, but it has had some narrow escapes. In 1665 the Dutch Admiral, de Ruyter, attempted to capture it with a fleet of twenty-five ships of the line, two fire ships and 2,500 troops. When the news of his approach reached Barbados the British ships were brought in close under the batteries. The Dutch fleet attempted to follow them, but the fire from the English vessels was so destructive that the flagship was disabled and the expedition was forced to withdraw.

During the eighteenth century when the West Indies were involved in the French and American wars, Barbados was liable to attack and was ringed with forts, the crumbling stones and rusting guns of which still remain. In 1782 the Island was saved from occupation only by Rodney's victory in the "Battle of the Saints" on 12th April. Again, in 1805, the forts were manned when it was learned that the French and Spanish fleets had been sighted off St. Lucia, but the arrival of Nelson on board the *Victory* accompanied by the whole English fleet, restored tranquillity. Nelson's visit to the Island and the gratitude of the inhabitants for their

delivery were commemorated by the erection in 1811 of a bronze statue in Trafalgar Square, overlooking the Bridgetown carenage.*

The first settlers had raised tobacco and cotton. In 1644 certain Dutch sugar planters and traders, expelled from Guiana by the Portuguese, introduced their craft to Barbados. The first mills were worked by cattle, but in 1655 the windmill was introduced. In 1841 the first steam engines were at work and thereafter the windmills declined. The last of them ceased work in 1946.

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries Barbados was an island of plenty and prosperity. Many English families settled there, as place-names and memorials bear witness, for instance, Codrington College, Bulkeley and Lascelles Plantations, Drax Hall, Edgcumbe and Frere Pilgrim estates. The Council Chamber possesses portraits of the first, second and third Earls of Harewood. The planters were rich and displayed their wealth as was customary at the time, partly by erecting ostentatious monuments by the finest British sculptors of the day. The interior of a Barbados parish church has, therefore, a particularly English look. Many of the memorials are the work of sculptors of Liverpool and Bristol, from which so many of the settlers had come, but there are also examples of the work of Flaxman and Bacon; and the little church of St. George can boast of a memorial of Nollekens on its southern wall, one by Westmacott on its northern wall, and an altar-piece by Benjamin West. Other churches have their interest. It was in a vault in the churchyard of Christ Church that in 1820 there occurred the well-known and mysterious displacement of coffins. The graveyard of St. John's Church contains a memorial to Ferdinando Paleologus "descended from the Imperial line of the last Christian Emperors of Greece".

Ever since the Island was first colonised, the connection between Barbados and Northern America has been very close. Many families in the Carolinas, and some even as far north as New England, reached America *via* Barbados.

The bond between Barbados and Britain has been maintained by a number of well-known names, down to our day. Warren Hastings' father, Penniston, was at one time Rector of Christ Church, though Warren himself was born in England. Leigh Hunt was of Barbadian parentage, his grandfather having been Rector of St. Michael, and his father a clergyman who flitted between Bridgetown and Philadelphia before settling down as a fashionable preacher in London. The famous Chenery, Professor of Arabic at Oxford, reviser of the Old Testament, and Editor of the *The Times* from 1877 to 1884, was born in Barbados in 1826. In our own day, Sir Frank Newsam, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs, was a Barbadian; and the Island takes pride in the fact that John Goddard was chosen to captain both the West Indies cricket team which met the M.C.C. in January, 1948 (for two of the four test matches), and the West Indies team which toured India, Pakistan and Ceylon a year later.

* In 1914 Barbados was again exposed to the enemy. The German cruiser *Karlsruhe* was ordered to attack the Island, but blew up *en route*.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries a prosperous Sephardic Jewish community grew up in Barbados. They gradually declined through emigration and assimilation, until in the early years of the century the community disappeared. Their beautifully furnished synagogue was alienated—it is now the headquarters of the Barbados Turf Club and a Political Association—and the graveyard desecrated, many of its memorials being broken. Of recent years a new, Ashkenazi, community of some sixteen families from Europe has grown up.

In 1751, George Washington, then a lad of nineteen, visited Barbados as the companion of his dying brother, Lawrence, who came to Barbados in the hope of recovering his health. Washington, as his diary records, was much taken with the Island. He enjoyed his rides in the cool of the day, and he met the best society in the Island, becoming a member of the Beefsteak and Tripe Club. He is known to have visited Christ Church and to have dined at Graeme Hall nearby. On leaving the Island he recorded in his diary: "Hospitality and genteel behaviour is shown to every Gentleman stranger by the inhabitants."

The devastating hurricane of 1831 put an end to these halcyon days, and the West Indies as a whole were already entering a trough of depression.

Emancipation of the slaves in 1834 caused a great change in the economy of the Island, despite the compensation of £1¼ million which the planters received from the British Treasury. It did not for some time greatly amend the status of the slaves. The white minority, the old "plantocracy" still dominated the Island politically, socially and commercially. In 1876 matters came to a head in the so-called Confederation Riots.

A new Governor, John Pope Hennessy, was appointed with instructions to secure from the Legislature consent to certain measures of administrative unification in the Windward group, of which Barbados was the headquarters. One purpose of these proposals, prematurely labelled as "Confederation", was to by-pass the consistent obstructiveness of a Legislature elected by 1,300 voters out of a population of over 160,000; and Barbadian particularism, fearful for the independence of its Legislature, and even more of its Treasury, was up in arms at once. A "Defence Association" was formed among the upper and middle classes to mobilise opposition to the plans of the Colonial Office, and this led to a counter-agitation among the labourers, who supposed that Confederation would benefit them. Hennessy, whose zeal and energy were not supported by good political judgment, had given some encouragement to this belief; and in April, 1876, the astonishing spectacle was seen of widespread rioting by negroes who understood that in robbing provision fields, sacking plantation houses, and destroying livestock, they were carrying out the wishes of the representative of the Queen. Hennessy showed promptness, firmness and temperance in suppressing the disturbances, and the casualties were not large—eight killed and thirty-odd injured; figures very similar to those in the 1937 disturbances, which preceded the appointment of the Moyne Commission. In neither case was any white person killed.

After Hennessy had been diplomatically transferred to another

Government, the extreme political tension in the Island was eased. The Barbadian political system appeared to have emerged from the crisis intact; but, after an attempt to secure for the Government official representation in the House of Assembly had failed, a compromise was reached in the Executive Committee Act of 1881. By this scheme, the Governor was required to call in his Executive Council, four members of the Assembly and one of the Legislative Council, to form an Executive Committee for the discussion and transaction of financial business, and the consideration of legislative measures at large.

In the absence of further acute conflict between the two branches of the Government the plan worked fairly well, until, in quite recent times, an enlarged franchise and a more widely diffused political consciousness exposed its weaknesses. During the late war the failure of the Executive Committee to keep the confidence of the House of Assembly produced a virtual legislative deadlock. The recent experiment, inaugurated in 1946, is an attempt to solve this, by requiring the Governor to ask the person best able to command a majority in the House of Assembly to suggest what members of the House shall sit in the Executive Committee—thus tentatively establishing without any legal alteration in the constitution, something like responsible party government.*

The 'eighties were a period of depression in world trade. From 1885 onwards, mainly owing to competition from bounty-fed sugar, Barbados was in the grip of an agricultural crisis. In 1894 the price of sugar fell to 9s. a hundredweight, and the next year the Bourbon cane, for so long the planters' standby, succumbed to the drought and moth borer. In such circumstances men were less inclined to favour constitutional than economic and social reform. Two measures of constitutional interest—a private member's Bill to retrench by amalgamating the offices of Governor and Colonial Secretary, and a similar Bill to exclude the Auditor-General from the House of Assembly and the Executive Committee—caused a little stir, but did not reach the Statute Book.

In 1896 a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate conditions in the West Indies. It had many important results, although some of these were long delayed. An Imperial Department of Agriculture was set up with headquarters in Barbados in 1898; John R. Bovell, of the local Department of Agriculture, was stimulated in his search for new varieties of cane. The disappearance of the Bourbon cane might have proved a permanent disaster, not only for Barbados, but for the whole West Indies, had it not been for Bovell's demonstrating that cane "arrows" or flowers, produce fertile seed, and that by cross-breeding many varieties of improved cane could be propagated from seed. The British West Indies Cane Breeding Station is now established in Barbados and is a memorial to Bovell's genius. In 1902 the sugar bounties were abolished and the Imperial Government made a gift of £250,000 to the West Indies, of which £80,000 fell to Barbados. This amount was at first administered by Commissioners as a loan fund for the benefit of

* For this, and other developments during and since the war, see Annual Report for 1947, Part I, Chapter 1, and Part III, Chapter 3.

sugar estates, and became in 1907, the nucleus of the capital of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. Meanwhile, the Court of Chancery was working at full pressure. Very few estates were abandoned or cut up and sold in lots, but on all the number of workers and the level of wages were necessarily reduced. With the population at 182,000, or 1,000 to the square mile, and a one-crop economy, this meant not only increased unemployment, but destitution. On top of this came the hurricane of 1898, not causing much loss of life, it is true, but adding greatly to the prevailing distress, especially among the labouring classes.

The price of sugar fell below a dollar a hundredweight. In 1902 there was an epidemic of smallpox. In 1905-6 the Imperial troops were withdrawn, which meant an annual loss of nearly £80,000.

Under this economic pressure the absentee proprietors who, at the time of the visit of the Royal Commission owned one-third of the acreage of the Island, dropped out of the race. They were succeeded by a set of new men who brought a new spirit and new methods of rehabilitation of the sugar industry. The need for economy and efficiency led to the creation of a number of factories controlling groups of estates. Moreover, after 1900 there was a great wave of emigration from among the lower-middle and the labouring classes to the United States and the Panama Canal works. Between 1906 and 1910 the remittances of these emigrants averaged well over £65,000. Several estates were cut up in lots and sold to the returned emigrants or their relatives. By 1913 there were 13,000 peasants who owned lots of five acres and under.

In 1913 the exodus to Panama ceased, but during the 1914-18 war and for some time after there was a boom in sugar and the prosperity it brought continued until about 1930. It was evident in the improved standard of living. An income tax was instituted in 1921.

By 1930 economic distress was again making itself felt, and in 1937 Barbados had its share of those disturbances which occurred throughout the West Indies. In that year a Royal Commission was sent to the West Indies, and from its labours, and the reforms produced, dates yet another period in the social and political development of the Colony.

Chapter 3 : Administration

Barbados possesses representative institutions, but not complete responsible Government. The Crown has only a veto on legislation, but the Secretary of State retains his appointment and control of Public Officers, except the Treasurer, who since 1710 has been nominated by the House of Assembly.

The Legislature consists of the Governor, the Legislative Council, consisting of 14 members appointed by His Majesty, and the House of Assembly, consisting of 24 members (two for each parish and two for the city of Bridgetown) elected for a period of two years. The House of Assembly was constituted in 1639 and is the oldest colonial

legislative body after the Bermuda House of Assembly. In 1944 the income qualification for voters was reduced from £50 to £20 per year, and the franchise was given to females, who also became eligible for election as members.

The executive part of the Government is vested in the Governor and an Executive Council and, in respect of certain matters, an Executive Committee. In actual practice, apart from advising the Governor with regard to the exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy, nearly all the Executive Council's functions are discharged by the Executive Committee. The Executive Council consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General *ex officio*, and of such other persons as His Majesty may appoint. The Executive Committee, which is created by local statute, consists of the Executive Council *ex officio* and of one member of the Legislative Council and four members of the House of Assembly appointed by the Governor at the commencement of each session of the Legislature. The Executive Committee introduces all money votes, prepares the estimates and initiates all Government measures; it is also responsible for the conduct of public works, and the control and management of Government property.

Until 1946 the Attorney-General, who is a full-time Government officer, was expected to stand for election for the House of Assembly and to take charge of Government business in the House of Assembly. In his speech when proroguing the Legislature at the end of 1946 the Governor stated that in future the Officer administering the Government would at the beginning of each session send for the member of the House who in his opinion was best able to command a majority in the House and would invite him to submit the names of four members of the House of Assembly for appointment to Executive Committee. At the same time the permission granted to the Attorney-General to seek election was withdrawn and the responsibility for the conduct of public business in the House of Assembly placed in the hands of those members of Executive Committee appointed from the House.

The Governor has the right to address the Legislature at any time, but this right is usually exercised only at the opening or close of the session. On other occasions the Governor communicates with either Chamber by a Message which is presented to the Chamber by a member of the Executive Committee. Communications from either Chamber to the Governor take the form of an Address which must be approved by a majority vote. The House of Assembly has no standing committee of finance and any application by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to approve expenditure, which is not authorised by an Act or in the annual Estimates of the Colony, must be approved by resolution of the Legislature before expenditure can be incurred.

The Island is administered as one unit except in respect of local government matters, which are in the hands of the Vestries and Parochial Boards of the eleven parishes. The Vestries are elected annually, and each Vestry appoints Commissioners of Highways, Commissioners of Health and Poor Law Guardians for the parish. The two last-named bodies rely for revenue upon grants from the Vestry, but the Commissioners of

Highways, who are responsible for the upkeep of all public highways in the parish which are not maintained by the Central Government, collect all vehicle and highway taxes, and, in addition, receive grants-in-aid from the Central Government. The Vestries derive their revenue mainly from taxes on ownership and occupancy of land and houses and trade tax ; the rates for these are fixed annually so as to bring in sufficient revenue to meet the estimated expenditure for the year. The Vestries undertake the repair and maintenance of churches and church buildings and the Rector of each parish is chairman of the Vestry *ex officio*.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

The standard of weights and superficial measure is the same as in the United Kingdom, but the local standard measure of capacity is 231 cubic inches to the gallon (known as the wine gallon).

Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

<i>Advocate</i>	.	.	.	Daily except Monday
<i>Evening Advocate</i>	.	.	.	Monday
<i>Recorder</i>	.	.	.	Monday, Wednesday and Saturday
<i>Observer</i>	.	.	.	Saturday
<i>Torch</i>	.	.	.	Saturday
<i>Beacon</i>	.	.	.	Saturday
<i>Barbados Commerical Journal</i>	.	.	.	Monthly
<i>Annual Review</i>	.	.	.	

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Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown on cover page three or through any bookseller. Prices in brackets include postage

- Report of the West Indian Conference held in Barbados, 21st-30th March, 1944*. Colonial No. 187, 1944. Price 6d. (7d.).
- Closer Association of the British West Indian Colonies*. Cmd. 7120, 1947. Price 9d. (10d.).
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- Report of the Commission on the Unification of the Public Services in the British Caribbean Area, 1948-49*. Colonial No. 254, 1950. Price 2s. (2s. 2d.).
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